

December XX, 2021

The Honorable Jay Obernolte  
1029 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

RE: H.R. 3649 and Federal Recognition for the Mono Lake Kutzadika'a Tribe

Dear Representative Obernolte,

The Mono Basin Regional Planning Advisory Committee (RPAC) supports H.R. 3649, the "Mono Lake Kutzadika'a Tribe Recognition Act." H.R. 3649 is a widely-supported, bipartisan measure with important historical and contemporary implications for the Tribe, including long-overdue federal recognition.

The Mono Lake Kutzadika'a have resided consistently in California's Eastern Sierra between Yosemite National Park and the California-Nevada state line for thousands of years. Their community and traditional ties to the region far pre-date European-American contact with the Mono Basin.

The Kutzadika'a are active and engaged community members, and the Tribe is currently recognized as a community and political entity in the Mono Basin. The Tribe is consulted by federal, state, and county governments on projects that affect the Mono Basin.

The Tribe's effort for federal recognition has widespread regional support, including from the Mono County Board of Supervisors, the National Park Service, the Sierra Club, the Mono Lake Committee, Friends of the Inyo, and California Legal Indian Services. Ten neighboring tribes support federal recognition for the Tribe, and more than 5,000 individuals have signed a petition supporting the Tribe's recognition.

Because of the Tribe's important cultural history and continued vibrant presence in the region, the RPAC supports passage of H.R. 3649 so that the Mono Lake Kutzadika'a Tribe may receive federal recognition. Please advance the bill...

Sincerely,

Duncan King  
Chair, Mono Basin RPAC

CC: whole committee Rep. Obernolte is on?  
Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland?  
Vice President Kamala Harris?