



COUNTY OF LAKE

Board of Supervisors

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September 21, 2021

The Honorable John Garamendi
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC. 20515
via email to Tigran.Agdaian@mail.house.gov

Dear Representative Garamendi:

We are writing to express the support of the Lake County Board of Supervisors for the *Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument Expansion Act*. This draft legislation would add the Lake County portion of Walker Ridge (Moluhk Loyuk, or Condor Ridge in the Patwin language) to the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument and require the creation of a management plan to ensure appropriate protection, restoration, and management of the area.

Walker Ridge is a remarkable ecological treasure in need of conservation. The landscape supports many habitats including chaparral, grasslands, unique low-elevation forests of pine and cypress, and oak woodlands. Rare and endemic plants have evolved to grow only on unusual serpentine soils derived from ancient sea floor. Walker Ridge is also home to imperiled wildlife such as bald and golden eagles, badger, ringtail, and peregrine falcon among a long list of others, besides being a recognized wildlife migration pathway for a multitude of species, including deer, elk, mountain lion, black bear, and bobcat. Walker Ridge is steeped in thousands of years of rich history and culturally significant to several Native American tribes.

It is in the interest of the County of Lake to permanently preserve these nearby public lands, which are used by many of our residents as a place to visit and enjoy the region's varied recreational activities including hiking, swimming, hunting, fishing, horseback riding, photography, motor boating, camping, orienteering, wildlife viewing, scientific research, mountain bicycling, motorized recreation on authorized routes, and nature study.

Proper management is necessary to preserve these unique lands while also ensuring continued recreation opportunities for user groups such as mountain bikers, hikers, OHV riders, and equestrians, whose enjoyment of the area provides an important boost to the local economy. Special designations such as National Conservation Area and National Monument have been shown to help local communities diversify their economies and increase tourism, as well as helping attract businesses, thereby generating economic benefits for nearby communities through local employment and tax revenue.

The addition of the Lake County portion of Walker Ridge to the Monument will preserve this irreplaceable biological hotspot and protect public enjoyment of the lands. We thank you for introducing the *Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument Expansion Act* and look forward to working with you to protect the ecological and cultural treasures of Walker Ridge. Thank you for your leadership.

Respectfully,

COUNTY OF LAKE

Bruno Sabatier, Chair

cc: Honorable Assembly Member Cecilia Aguiar-Curry
Honorable State Senator Mike McGuire
Honorable Congressman Mike Thompson