

TULE RIVER INDIAN TRIBE OF CALIFORNIA

August 9, 2022

Alisson Ludtke, Policy Advisor Zack Strong, Senior Staff Attorney Animal Welfare Institute 900 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE Washington, DC 20003

Re: Tule River Tribe's Support of Proposed Legislation Establishing a Federal Beaver Conflict Mitigation Demonstration Program

Dear Mrs. Ludtke and Mr. Strong,

On behalf of the Tule River Tribe ("Tribe"), thank you for the opportunity to review the Animal Welfare Institute's proposed legislation providing that the Secretary of Interior, acting through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, establish a federal pilot program to help tribes, states, agencies, landowners, conservation organizations, and other entities invest in effective nonlethal solutions to minimize property damage caused by beavers. The five-year pilot program would provide \$1 million in funding per year to mitigate beaver conflicts in communities across the nation.

As stewards of our land, the Tribe also devotes substantial efforts in restoring and managing these lands and waters. These efforts include consideration for beavers in design and construction of projects to improve quality and quantity of habitat for fish, wildlife, and plants. Finding and implementing nonlethal solutions to conflicts with beaver can help ecosystems within and surrounding our communities build resiliency to changes in climate, particularly providing cold water and replenishing water resources.

Although Tule River has not yet reintroduced Beaver into our waterways, we are in the early stages of implementation. The Tribe fully supports the legislation and applauds the Animal Welfare Institute for spearheading this effort. The federal beaver conflict mitigation program will provide essential funding for developing and evaluation nonlethal measures to reduce conflicts and property damage caused by beavers.

Sincerely,



Neil Peyron, Chairman Tule River Tribal Council

Tule River Tribe

Letter of Support Federal Beaver Conlict Mitigation Demonstration Program

Final Audit Report 2022-08-09

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