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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES
1324 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 205515

Dear Chairman Raul Grijalva and Representative Member Rob Bishop,

I am writing as a Native American who works closely with the Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area (MPNHA). I coordinated with Paiute, Ute and Navajo tribal councils when Senator Bennett was working with Monte Bona to create the MPNHA.

After designation, the MPNHA provided funding for a Native American understanding tour I organized under the auspices of the Six County Association of Governments. The MPNHA has worked with Native American artists. They have also produced public television documentaries, including "Utah's Blackhawk War—Cultures in Conflict", "Native Americans and Sacred Water", and "The Lost Tomahawk". These shows involved Directors of Indian Affairs for the State of Utah and tribe/ band leaders.

Monte Bona participated with descendants of Chief Blackhawk and Manti LaSalle National Forest Service leadership in re-interring the bones of Chief Blackhawk at the place of his birth, Spring Lake, Utah. You can see this touching scene in the closing segment of "Utah's Blackhawk War", noted above.

I hope you will support HR 1049. I can attest that the MPNHA works diligently to recognize the contribution Native Americans played, and continue to play, in our region.

Sincerely,



Emery Polelonema
Native American Ombudsman

