SUPPORT LETTER

September XX, 2021

The Honorable John Garamendi

United States House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Garamendi:

I am writing to support of the *Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument Expansion Act*. Your draft legislation to add the [Lake County portion of Walker Ridge](about:blank), known as Molok (ma.lok) Luyuk (lue.yoke) or Condor Ridge in Patwin, to the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument and require the creation of a management plan will ensure appropriate protection, restoration, and management of the area.

Walker Ridge, Molok Luyuk, a remarkable ecological treasure commanding views of much of Northern California, is in need of conservation. The landscape supports many habitats including chaparral, grasslands, unique low-elevation forests of pine and cypress, oak woodlands, and unusual serpentine soils derived from ancient sea floor. Rare plants have evolved to grow only on serpentine soil; Walker Ridge is one of the most important areas of serpentine plant habitat in the state with a long list of documented species, including the beautiful blue Indian Valley brodiaea. 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. In addition, Walker Ridge is 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 is culturally significant to numerous Native American tribes. Proper management is necessary to preserve these unique lands while also ensuring continued recreation opportunities for sightseers, mountain bikers, hikers, off-highway vehicle users, campers, and equestrians, which provide an important boost to the local economy.

The addition of Walker Ridge, Molok Luyuk, 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.

Sincerely,

Name

Title, Organization/Business (if appropriate)

Email

Address