September 3, 2024

The Honorable Alex Padilla

2500 Tulare Street, Suite 5290

Fresno, CA 93721

**Subject: Designation of Medicine Lake Highlands (Sattitla) as a National Monument - OPPOSE**

Dear Senator Padilla:

Siskiyou County is writing to express our opposition to the effort to designate the Medicine Lake Highlands area as a national monument. We value that the land is a culturally significant place for the Pit River Nation, and we understand their desire to protect the area as such. However, the Medicine Lake Highlands is already protected from development.

The Klamath, Modoc, and Shasta-Trinity National Forests manage the Medicine Lake Highlands in their respective jurisdictions, and the area is included on the National Register of Historic Places. However, we are concerned that designating the area as a national monument would prevent the land from being managed practically and would hinder recreation. Management practices on federal lands are critical to protect them from events such as catastrophic wildfires, and these practices are wide-ranging, including prescribed fire, fuel reduction, timber harvesting, and livestock grazing. In addition, the area is a significant recreation area for visitors and nearby homeowners. At this time, the restrictions that a national monument designation would place on the Medicine Lake Highlands are too unknown and therefore require us to oppose the designation at this time.

If you have any questions or want to discuss this further, please contact, Elizabeth Nielsen, Deputy County Administrator at enielsen@co.siskiyou.ca.us or (530) 842-8012. This letter was approved by the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors on September 3, 2024, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Sincerely,

Michael Kobseff

Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Chairman Yatch Bamford, Pit River Tribe

 Congressman Doug LaMalfa