

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF
BONITA CLEVELAND
CHAIR OF THE QUILEUTE TRIBE, LA PUSH WASHINGTON
BEFORE THE UNITED STATES SENATE
COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS**

**HEARING ON S. 636
QUILEUTE TRIBE TSUNAMI PROTECTION LEGISLATION**

APRIL 14, 2011

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, on behalf of the Quileute people, thank you for allowing me to speak about how our children and elders could be killed in a tsunami unless we can move our village to higher ground. *Wa -ta- lich- ta asoos ta. Wa -ta- lich- ta asoos ta. Wa -ta- lich- ta asoos ta.* Translation: Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

With me today are members of the Quileute Tribal Council, DeAnna Hobson and Carol Hatch, our Executive Director, Mr. William Peach, the Tribe's legislative counsel, Mr. Harold Bailey, and the Tribe's Communication Consultant, Ms. Jackie Jacobs. I am here today to be the voice of the Quileute people, and to ask this Committee to act on Senator Cantwell's legislation, Senate Bill 636.

Although the Japanese tsunami is a very recent reminder of the destruction that follows an earthquake in the ocean, our people have been living for decades with the fear of a tsunami and flooding.

Our homes, Tribal school, elder center and administrative buildings at La Push are built basically at sea level, and there is a huge fault line right off our coast called the Cascadia subduction zone. Some might ask why we have located our Tribal infrastructure in harm's way, but this Committee knows the reason: our Tribe was forced onto a one-mile square reservation, the Olympic National Park completely surrounds our reservation, and we have no more land to move our tribal facilities out of danger.

The time has come once again to make a difference for our people who have always had close cultural ties with the land since the beginning of time. It starts all over again, with Senator Cantwell's introduction of the Quileute tsunami protection and land transfer legislation. The challenges have been great, there has been consultation upon consultation for many years with the different leaderships of our village. Without this legislation, the tsunami danger could lead to the extinction of our Quileute people. It is time to take great measures to ensure that there is more done by the Congress than introducing a bill on the floor of the Senate. As Quileute people who have always had ancient cultural ties with our land and beneficiaries

since the beginning of time, we know best when it is time to move freely as they had done back in the days. Freely is the key word that is not possible for today's Quileutes. We all know Mother earth gives as well as she has the power to take away...

In the past, our people lived, hunted and fished on many thousands of acres throughout our Northwest Coast. However, as you are aware, our land base is between the Pacific Ocean and Olympic National Park. Senator Cantwell's legislation would give our Tribe a permanent way out of tsunami danger zone. The beaches will remain open to the thousands of visitors who can access those beaches over a trailhead owned by the Quileute Tribe.

Many people have an impression of the Quileute people through the *Twilight* books and movies, but our reality is completely different. Our Tribe is small, and most of our economic livelihood depends on fishing. I have been involved in Northwest Indian fishing issues for many, many years, and I can tell you that this is a constant struggle to maintain the right to fish in areas our forefathers fished for centuries. Hollywood's version of the Quileute people does not show the economic hardships we face, nor the struggle we consistently face to preserve our culture and way of life when we are confined to a one-mile square reservation.

Beyond the tsunami danger, our Tribe faces the consistent threat of flooding from the Quileute River. We get 12 feet of rain per year, an average of 144 inches. There is only one road in and one road out of La Push, and this road is often under 3-4 feet of water. An important part of Senator Cantwell's legislation would allow the Tribe and the Olympic Nationalal Park to work together to plan flood protection measures that would benefit both the Tribe and Park visitors.

The land that would be transferred to the Tribe has been logged, and there will be a tree line between the new Tribal buildings, the Olympic Nation Park trails and the beaches. For those who are concerned about the loss of some wilderness land, I ask that they think about the Japanese tsunami victims and then imagine the death and destruction that will occur when, not if, a tsunami hits La Push.

Every detail of the land transfers and easements contained in Senator Cantwell's bill has been carefully evaluated and negotiated with the Olympic National Park for many years. The legislation offsets the loss of wilderness adjacent to our reservation by adding large tracts of new wilderness to the Olympic National Park.

We are concerned about the federal budget crisis, but I want to be very clear that Senator Cantwell's bill requires minimal federal costs. There are no federal dollars going to the Quileute Tribe for this settlement, only federal land. The Olympic National Park will incur small charges for survey and title costs, and will commit its staff's time to implementing the settlement.

For our part, we have devoted hundreds of hours of time by our Quileute Tribal Departments and staff and legal counsel to identify and negotiate the land transfers and easements with the Park. In comparison to the federal dollars that would be spent in responding to a tsunami that would destroy our village and injure so many, the cost of this legislation are truly insignificant.

I want to express my sincerest appreciation and respect to all the current and past members of the Quileute Tribal Council, and the staff of the Quileute Natural Resources, who have worked for so long to preserve and protect our tribe. One part of the land transfer, the Thunder Field area, has tremendous cultural and historic value to our Tribe, and our forefathers would be happy that their descendants may once again call that special place our own. It is a sad fact that Thunder Field is in a flood zone, and the land is constantly eroding as the Quileute River moves closer and closer to our village. But our Tribal Council recognizes our obligation and debt to our forefathers for whom Thunder Field was such an important part of their values and traditions that we cherish. If the Quileute people can regain Thunder Field, then we will have made an important contribution to our cultural heritage.

The only way the legislation can be successful is that if the Congress moves quickly before a tsunami destroys La Push. We know that this Committee and the Senate have many other pressing matters to deal with, and we are fearful that this legislation will not be enacted soon enough.

As Tribal Chair, I am constantly asked why it has taken so long for the federal government to recognize the injustice to our Tribe and the danger we face. Our Tribal School is at sea level next to the Pacific Ocean and the students ask their teachers: "Could we be killed by the wave?" and "Could we get out in time?" Some of those children have expressed their worries in art work, and I have with me today some of their pictures and drawings that show that our children understand the danger they face every day they come to school.

We have just learned that a wall of water 48 feet tall hit the Japanese nuclear plant. We now know that in the past an earthquake off the Oregon coast produced a tsunami that traveled all across the Pacific to hit Japan. We know that the Cascadia subduction zone has produced massive earthquakes in the past, and that another earthquake could happen at any moment. And most worrisome, we the Quileute people know that, based on our practice tsunami evacuation drills, we may not have sufficient warning to get our children and elders to safety in time. To those people who discount the danger of tsunami, I say – please come to La Push and see with your own eyes our immediate need.

We are also aware that some people do not understand the long history of our dispute with the Olympic National Park, and do not agree that the Tribe should receive any federal land. We are fearful that those people will slow the progress of this legislation, and that the potential for a Japan-type tsunami will become a horrible reality for our Tribe. To those people I say, please, think of the sad pictures

of the child victims in Japan and imagine what it would be like to see similar pictures coming from La Push. We ask this Committee to be a champion for our children, and to be a strong and constant voice for quick legislation action. For our part, we will continue to be a leader in tsunami awareness and preparation, and we will never stop asking for this legislation.

Mr. Chairman, in closing, I would like to thank Olympic National Park Superintendent, Karen Gustin, for her continued hard work on the land settlement, and to express our deepest appreciation to all the public officials and private citizens who care about the survival of the Quileute people and who are supporting Senator Cantwell's bill.

I also want submit for the record six important items that I urge your Committee to consider:

- (1) Letters of support from public officials in the State of Washington.
- (2) The recent draft resolution of the National Congress of the American Indian supporting Senator Cantwell's legislation, as well as a previous NCAI resolution expressing concern about tsunami danger to our people.
- (3) The complete 10 minute video on the tsunami danger produced by the Quileute Tribal Council, viewable at <http://www.quileutenation.org>
- (4) Pictures of the past flooding from the Quillayute River.
- (5) A list of the scientific articles that explain the earthquake and tsunami danger from the Cascadia subduction zone.
- (6) A listing of the recent television and radio reports that record the tsunami danger to the Quileute people.

I ask everyone to view our Tribal Council's tsunami video and to support to Senator Cantwell's legislation.

As for many many moons, this has yet to become a reality for the Quileute people.

On behalf of the Quileute people I have come with a token, a carved moon, so you will remember the Quileute people's cry.



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #EC-11-001

TITLE: Support of Federal Legislation to Protect the Quileute People from Tsunami and To Express Sympathy to the Japanese Tsunami Victims

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Comanche Nation

SOUTHWEST
Joe Garcia
Ohkay Owingeh

WHEREAS, we, the members of the National Congress of American Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian nations, rights secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the health, safety and welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

WHEREAS, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) was established in 1944 and is the oldest and largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, the Quileute Indian Tribe is an Indian Tribe organized under the Indian Reorganization Act, and the Quileute Tribal Council is the duly constituted governing body of the Quileute Indian Tribe by authority of Article III of the Constitution and By-laws of the Quileute Indian Tribe approved by the Secretary of the Interior on November 11, 1936; and

WHEREAS, the Quileute Indian Reservation is located on the western coast of the Olympic Peninsula, with the Pacific Ocean to the west and surrounded by the Olympic National Park on the north, south and east; and

WHEREAS, most of the Quileute Reservation village of La Push is located within the coastal floodplain, with the Tribal administrative buildings, the school, the elder center and tribal housing all located in a tsunami zone; and

WHEREAS, the recent tsunami disaster in Japan stands as a tragic reminder of the vulnerability of the Quileute people, and the need for immediate action to move Tribal facilities to higher ground; and

WHEREAS, for many decades, the Quileute Tribe and the Olympic National Park have had a dispute over the Reservation boundaries along the Quillayute River; and

WHEREAS, this dispute intensified as the Quileute Tribe has faced the urgent need for additional lands for housing, schools and other Tribal purposes outside the tsunami and river flood zones; and

WHEREAS, the Quileute Tribal Council and the Olympic National Park engaged in lengthy negotiations to resolve the boundary dispute and to protect the Quileute people from the tsunami and flooding threat; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, the NCAI passed Resolution PHX-08-073 adopted at the Phoenix Arizona Annual Session recognizing that the Quileute Tribe's administrative buildings, school, elder center and tribal housing are located in the tsunami zone, and supporting draft legislation that would resolve the boundary dispute and to protect the Quileute people.

WHEREAS, the Quileute Tribal Council and the Park reached agreement in 2010 on proposed legislation to resolve the dispute, and the Quileute Tribal Council has asked the Congress to enact this legislation; and

WHEREAS, Senator Maria Cantwell of Washington State and Congressman Norm Dicks of Washington State have introduced legislation to protect the Quileute people from tsunami and to resolve the dispute between the Quileute Indian Tribe and the Park.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby support Senator Cantwell's legislation, S. 636, and Congressman Dicks' legislation, H.R. 1162; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NCAI urges the Congress to act with speed and urgency on S. 636 and H.R. 1162 so that the people and facilities of the Quileute Indian Tribe can be moved to higher ground as soon as possible; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NCAI wishes to extend its deepest sympathies to the Japanese tsunami victims and their families, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NCAI believes that swift enactment of S. 636 and H.R. 1162 would honor the memory of the Japanese tsunami victims by preventing another tragedy that could destroy the Quileute Indian Tribe.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

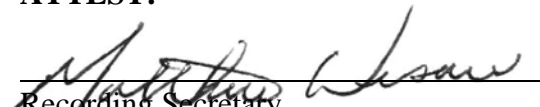
CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Executive Committee of the National Congress of American Indians on April 5, 2011, with a quorum present.



President

ATTEST:



Recording Secretary



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #PHX-08-073

TITLE: Support of Draft Legislation Resolve the Northern Boundary Dispute between the Quileute Indian Tribe and the Olympic National Park

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Joe A. Garcia
*Ohkay Owingeh
(Pueblo of San Juan)*

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NORTHEAST

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NORTHWEST

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Haliwa-Saponi

SOUTHERN PLAINS

Darrell Flyingman
Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes

SOUTHWEST

Derek Valdo
Pueblo of Acoma

WESTERN

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Fallon Paiute-Shoshone

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WHEREAS, we, the members of the National Congress of American Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian nations, rights secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the health, safety and welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

WHEREAS, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) was established in 1944 and is the oldest and largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, the Quileute Indian Tribe is an Indian Tribe organized under the Indian Reorganization Act, and the Quileute Tribal Council is the duly constituted governing body of the Quileute Indian Tribe by authority of Article III of the Constitution and By-laws of the Quileute Indian Tribe approved by the Secretary of the Interior on November 11, 1936; and

WHEREAS, the Quileute Indian Reservation is located on the western coast of the Olympic Peninsula, with the Pacific Ocean to the west and surrounded by the Olympic National Park on the north, south and east; and

WHEREAS, most of the Quileute Reservation village of La Push is located within the coastal floodplain, with the Tribal administrative buildings, the school, the elder center and tribal housing all located in a tsunami zone; and

WHEREAS, for many decades, the Quileute Tribe and the Olympic National Park have a dispute over the Reservation boundaries along the Quillayute River; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, this dispute has intensified as the Quileute Tribe has faced an urgent need for additional lands for housing, schools and other Tribal purposes outside the tsunami and river flood zones; and

WHEREAS, the Quileute Tribal Council and the Olympic National Park have been engaged in long-term discussions to resolve the boundary dispute and to protect the Quileute people from the tsunami threat; and

WHEREAS, the Quileute Tribal Council and the Park have reached agreement on draft legislation to be submitted to Congress to resolve these pressing issues.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby support the draft legislation for the resolution of the northern boundary dispute between the Quileute Indian Tribe and the Olympic National Park; and

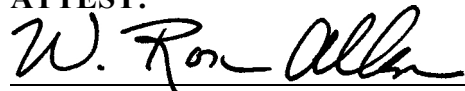
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the General Assembly at the 2008 Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Phoenix Convention Center in Phoenix, Arizona on October 19-24, 2008, with a quorum present.



President

ATTEST:


Recording Secretary









FEB 4 2006



FEB 4 2006



STOP
END
SCHOOL
ZONE

FEB 4 2006



FEB 4 2006

OLD LAPUSH RD

SPEED
LIMIT
25

OCT 17 2003



OCT 17 2003



OCT 17 2003

**SUBMISSION #6 FOR THE RECORD
TSUNAMI DANGER SCIENTIFIC ARTICLES**

**SUPPORTING THE
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**HEARING ON S. 636
QUILEUTE TRIBE TSUNAMI PROTECTION LEGISLATION**

APRIL 14, 2011

Scientific and Media Weblinks on Historical Tsunamis and the Pacific Northwest Subduction Zone:

<http://www.mapsofworld.com/tsunami/largest-historical-tsunamis.html>

<http://wcatwc.arh.noaa.gov/64quake.htm>

<http://academic.evergreen.edu/g/grossmaz/DANIELSC/index.html>

<http://www.oregongeology.org/tsuclearinghouse/projects-ecolacreek.htm>

<http://www.montrealgazette.com/news/1700+tsunami+caused+damage+Japan/4428377/story.html>

<http://geology.com/records/biggest-tsunami.shtml>

<http://www.drgeorgepc.com/Tsunami1958LituyaB.html>

<http://www.andaman.org/mapstsunami/tsunami.htm>

<http://www.usc.edu/dept/tsunamis/alaska/index.html>

Points About the Earthquakes and Tsunami Wave Heights:

The 2011 Japan earthquake was 9.0, with tsunami wave height up to 33 feet in Japan, 1.7 feet at La Push, Washington

The 2004 Indonesian earthquake was 9.0 on the Richter scale, with tsunami wave height up 100 feet in Indonesia

The 1964 "Good Friday" Alaska Quake was 8.4 on the Richter scale, with tsunami wave height up to 200 feet (in Shop Bay AK), wave heights up to 20 feet along the West Coast -- 7 feet in La Push.

The 1960 Chilean Earthquake was 9.5 on the Richter scale (highest on record), with tsunami wave height up to 82 feet in Chile

The 1958 Alaska Quake at Lituya Bay Alaska was estimated at 6.7 on the Richter scale, and because of the rock cascading down into a tidal inlet, created a localized tsunami with a wave more than 1500 feet

1929 Newfoundland Quake was 7.2 on the Richter scale, with wave height up to 22 feet in Canada.

The 1700 Oregon earthquake was estimated at 9.0 on the Richter scale, with tsunami wave height up to 50 feet in Oregon

**SUBMISSION #7 FOR THE RECORD
RECENT QUILEUTE TSUNAMI DANGER PRESS ARTICLES**

**SUPPORTING THE
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QUILEUTE TRIBE TSUNAMI PROTECTION LEGISLATION**

APRIL 14, 2011

Recent Media Weblinks to Reporting on Quileute Tsunami Danger:

<http://www.q13fox.com/news/kcpq-tsunami-would-wipe-out-local-tribe-20110406,0,2261665.story>

<http://www.king5.com/news/local/Tribe-desperate-to-move-village-to-higher-ground--118687154.html>

<http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/2011/03/quileute-officials-lobby-safety-olympic-national-park/>

<http://www.twilightlexicon.com/2011/03/23/the-quileute-nation-seeks-tsunami-legislation-and-needs-your-help/>

<http://www.kirotv.com/news/27322625/detail.html>

<http://www.peninsuladailynews.com/article/20110325/NEWS/303259987/quileute-tribe-releases-tsunami-video>

<http://www.salem-news.com/articles/april022011/tsunami-threat-tk.php>

<http://www.peninsuladailynews.com/article/20110318/news/303189988/legislation-would-give-quileutes-higher-ground>

<http://www.americanindianreport.com/wordpress/2011/03/legislation-would-help-quileute-move-out-of-tsunami-zone>

<http://twilightseriestheories.com/2011/03/23/the-quileute-nation-needs-your-help>

http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2013720131_quileute20m.html