



23 October 2025

Billyhawk Enos, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California
919 Highway 395 South
Gardnerville, Nevada 89460
Email: william.enos@washoetribe.us

To Whom It May Concern:

Subject: Letter of Support for the Nomination of Dá?aw (Lake Tahoe) to the National Register of Historic Places as a Traditional Cultural Property

Dear Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Enos,

On behalf of the Indigenous Futures Society, I am honored to express our strong support for the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California's nomination of Dá?aw (Lake Tahoe) to the National Register of Historic Places as a Traditional Cultural Property (TCP).

The Indigenous Futures Society recognizes and deeply respects the Washoe people's profound and enduring relationship with Dá?aw, which has been the center of Washoe life and spirituality for countless generations. This nomination represents an essential step in ensuring that Indigenous voices, knowledge systems, and cultural perspectives are recognized and honored in the stewardship of sacred landscapes.

We believe that the formal recognition of Dá?aw as a Traditional Cultural Property will:

- Affirm the Washoe Tribe's continuing cultural, spiritual, and stewardship connection to the lake and its watershed
- Ensure that Tribal history, knowledge, and perspectives are properly integrated
- into heritage conservation and interpretation efforts
- Strengthen collaborative partnerships among all stakeholders committed to protecting Lake Tahoe's cultural and ecological integrity
- Provide a framework for meaningful consultation and Tribal participation in matters affecting this sacred landscape

The Indigenous Futures Society is committed to supporting Indigenous sovereignty, cultural preservation, and the recognition of Traditional Cultural Properties as vital components of our shared heritage. We understand that this designation does not

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alter existing ownership, land use, or management authorities, but rather enhances the recognition of cultural values that have too often been overlooked in conservation and planning efforts.

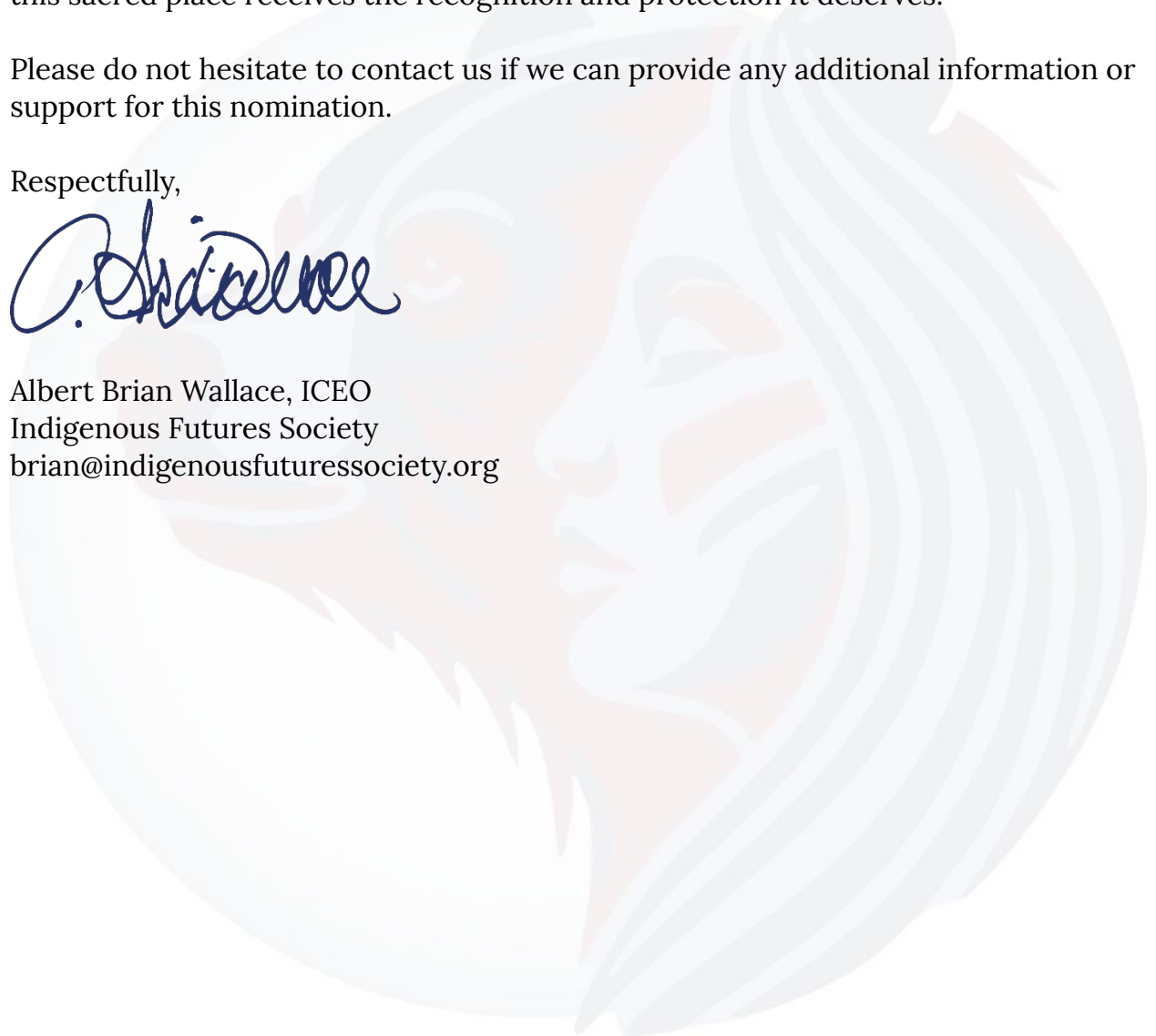
We wholeheartedly endorse this nomination and commend the Washoe Tribe for taking this important step to protect and honor Dá?aw for future generations. The Indigenous Futures Society stands ready to support ongoing efforts to ensure that this sacred place receives the recognition and protection it deserves.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can provide any additional information or support for this nomination.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark blue ink, appearing to read "A. Wallace".

Albert Brian Wallace, ICEO
Indigenous Futures Society
brian@indigenousfuturesociety.org



Susan Lindström, Ph.D.

Consulting Archaeologist

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DATE: November 9, 2025

TO: Billyhawk Enos, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California
919 Highway 395 South
Gardnerville, Nevada 89460
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RE: *Da ow* Traditional Cultural Property
National Register of Historic Places
Letter of Support

I am writing on behalf of the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California in their efforts to identify the body of Lake Tahoe as a Traditional Cultural Property (TCP) on the National Register of Historic Places. The Lake is of utmost importance to Washoe People for maintaining traditional values and ensuring future well-being and, thereby, appears to meet National Register criteria A, B and D. It retains integrity in all aspects of a TCP as relevant relationships survive despite the altered character of its lakeshore, tributary streams and uplands. The Lake has sustained itself from the Washoe past into the Washoe present. Its period of significance is absolute, enduring from creation time into the modern day.

Designation of the body of Lake Thoe as a TCP will ensure that tribal heritage is recognized and interpreted and that the Tribe's point of view is considered in contemporary land use planning.

The waters of Lake Tahoe embody Washoe cultural, social, and religious traditions and are central to this spiritual and symbolic connection. The Washoe word for Lake Tahoe, *Da ow*, means "lake" or "big water" and its defining landscape feature, the outlet, is also referenced according to water -- "flowing away over the edge" (*daybayOdu'E*).

My whole-hearted support for this TCP designation stems from over a half century of personal experience working as an archaeologist in the Tahoe Sierra region of the ancestral Washoe homeland. Over these decades, I have been privileged to learn from the elders and witness their enduring and ongoing cultural, spiritual and geographic connection to the Lake. This connection is sustained through language, traditional practices and spiritual observances and is grounded in oral tradition, the ethnographic and ethnohistoric record, and by archaeological evidence.

In collaborations with Washoe tribal members throughout years of archaeological investigations, Washoe People have become a part of the discovery of their own prehistoric past.

Even into historic times, traditional lifeways were sustained by maintaining contact with the Lake as workers, guides or skilled basket weavers. Here, the Washoe collective memory is affirmed by visiting ancestral places now coinciding with historic development. Historical impacts are powerful reminders to Washoe People of the resilience and ultimate survival of their traditions, beliefs and community values.

These connections extend beyond the physical world into the cosmological realm of spiritual beings. At Cave Rock, a sacred promontory along Lake Tahoe's southeast shore (and comparable TCP), Washoe cultural practitioners guided archaeological explorations by observing the traditional protocols to respect figures such as the *Metsún* (water babies), observed through avoidance and conduct of proper protective ceremonies

The welfare of Washoe people is dependent on the well-being of the Lake, a topic of vital concern to contemporary land managers. In this regard, Washoe elders have shared their knowledge and stewardship of traditional landscape management practices that have since proven useful to modern science-based watershed restoration goals. As such, designation of the Lake as a TCP will benefit Washoes and non-Washoes alike by fostering ongoing collaboration among those who have taken on the task of protecting and preserving Tahoe's natural and cultural legacy.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Susan Lindstrom". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Susan Lindstrom, Ph.D.
Consulting Archaeologist