

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 3, 2016

Mr. Jonathan Jarvis
Director, National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dr. Stephanie Toothman, Ph.D.
Keeper of the National Register
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Re: Support of the *Chi'chil Bildagoteel* Historic District Nomination

Dear Director Jarvis and Dr. Toothman,

We write this letter in support of the nomination of the *Chi'chil Bildagoteel* Historic District to be designated as a historic property listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This historic and important site includes cultural and religious areas that are vital to the traditional way of life for American Indian tribes in the region who have accessed the area for many generations and continue to do so today.

As you are aware, the *Chi'chil Bildagoteel* Historic District encompasses an area that includes ancestral homelands to local American Indian tribes in the region, including the San Carlos Apache Tribe. *Chi'chil Bildagoteel* has played a central role to Apache religion, traditions, and culture for centuries and is a known sacred site where Native peoples gather regularly for prayer and ceremonies. This traditional cultural property has deep tribal religious, cultural, archaeological, historical and environmental significance and including it on the National Register of Historic Places would be most appropriate.

The *Chi'chil Bildagoteel* Historic District meets all of the criteria and distinctions for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places and we applaud the efforts of the Forest Service and the National Park Service to consult with the tribes to ensure proper evaluation has been given and critical areas are protected for the benefit of future generations.

In closing, we thank you for your efforts to identify, evaluate and consider protection of America's most precious historic and archaeological treasures like the *Chi'chil Bildagoteel* Historic District in Arizona, and we support its nomination to be included on the National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely,



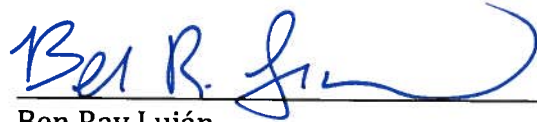
Raúl M. Grijalva
Ranking Member
House Committee on Natural Resources




Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



Ben Ray Luján
Member of Congress


Raul Ruiz M.D.
Member of Congress



Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress



Patrick Murphy
Member of Congress



Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress