



Statement of Paul Hauser  
General Manager  
Trinity Public Utilities District  
Before the U.S. House of Representatives  
House Committee on Natural Resources  
Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands  
On  
H.R. 4178  
March 1, 2022

Chairman Neguse, Congressman Huffman, Congressman LaMalfa and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of H.R. 4178, to extend the authority to collect Shasta-Trinity Marina fees through fiscal year 2027. My name is Paul Hauser and I am the General Manager for Trinity Public Utilities District (TPUD).

I have served as General Manager of TPUD for the last 10 years. I also serve on the Board of Directors for the Trinity County Chamber of Commerce, and as an elected Board Member for the Mountain Communities Healthcare District. I have served on the Trinity County Collaborative since its inception in 2013 and I also serve on the Recreation Subcommittee for the Collaborative.

Trinity Lake is a major source of recreation in Trinity County as well as being the source of the carbon-free renewable hydropower that TPUD provides to the 85% of Trinity County residents that we serve. The marina fees that are collected from marinas on Shasta and Trinity lakes are essential to maintaining recreation infrastructure that is extremely important to tourism in our county.

Trinity County is one of the poorest counties in the state of California with 19% of the population living below the poverty line. Although the county is larger than the state of Delaware; we only have a population of approximately 14,000. Though Trinity County is large, the federal government owns more than 75% of the county's land. While in past decades Trinity County saw much economic activity from mining and timber harvesting, these two industries have virtually shut down within the county. With almost no economic activity taking place on 75% of our land area, the economy is severely strained. Our schools and local government are in a mode of perpetual cuts as they try to meet the needs of residents with continually declining revenue sources. Tourism and the money it brings to the county are critically important to our economy.

The Shasta-Trinity National Recreation Area (NRA) is the largest driver of tourism activity in our area with an estimated 3.5 million people visiting annually. The resorts and Marinas are the foundation that support the NRA infrastructure necessary to allow visitors to enjoy our beautiful environment. In 2021 marina fee collections exceeded \$1.5 million and paid for fire prevention patrols, regular cleaning and maintenance of restrooms, dumpsters available at shoreline

campgrounds, and maintenance of four boat in campgrounds. In addition, these funds paid for state-of-the-art accessible facilities to provide greater access for persons with disabilities. These fees have paid for removal of numerous garbage dumps from NRA lands, bear-proof trash cans, picnic tables, fire rings, vault toilets, and benches. The marina fee collections support 15 permanent and 9 seasonal employees that provide vital support for NRA recreation.

Over the past many years, the marina fee authorization has been reauthorized on a year-to-year basis, which makes planning and funding for improvements difficult to budget. I enthusiastically support this legislation that would provide certainty to this process through 2027. I would also ask that future consideration be given to making this authorization permanent.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this legislation that is so important to our area.