

to turning over any large tract of land to the Indians. We, who live in the valley below the high mountain lands are very concerned that they continually be managed so that we get the most possible from the water that these lands produce. We feel that these lands should continue to be a part of the Carson National Forest.

We would not be opposed to turning over a small tract of land as suggested in Senate Bills 1624 and 1625. We do feel that the management of the 3,150 acres should require that they be protected from grazing by domestic livestock and should be closed to the cutting of green timber. We, also, think that the Forest Service should continue to protect the area from insect and disease and control fires which might occur there. With this type of management, the watershed will continue to receive adequate protection.

We encourage you to support legislation that will assure the Indians of reasonable protection of their religious activities as well as satisfy the needs and desires of all of us here in Taos County.

Sincerely yours,

LUIS C. MARTINEZ,
Chairman, Taos County Commissioners.

TOWN OF TAOS,
Taos, N. Mex., July 16, 1968.

Senator CLINTON P. ANDERSON,
*U.S. Senate,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR ANDERSON: I have recently learned that the House of Representatives by Voice vote proposed that 48,000 acres of the Carson National Forest be turned over to the Taos Pueblo Indians. I understand that the Legislation is now before a committee on which you serve as a member. I want you to know that I do not favor the bill as passed by the House.

I have followed the attempts by the Indians to acquire this land for years. I have remained confident that the United States will protect the interests of the people of the Taos Area in assuring that these lands are properly cared for. The Forest Service has, over the years, taken good care of these lands for the Indians as well as all of the people. We recognize that the Indians here have a special religious interest in Blue Lake. It is my feeling that they should be able to continue to have and use Blue Lake for their own. However, I think the proposal that you made which would give the Indians title to 3,100 acres around Blue Lake was a fair settlement. It was rejected by the Indians, but I still think your proposal was the best one for all concerned. I would like it if you could get this legislation approved by Congress rather than the current bill calling for 48,000 acres.

We in Taos are very concerned that the water which comes from the Rio Pueblo de Taos and the Rio Lucero be protected. There are over five hundred (500) non-Indian users of this water for irrigation purposes. I think the major part of the watershed should remain as part of the National Forest as this would assure the best possible protection of our people's water interest.

Very truly yours,

RUMALDO GARCIA, *Mayor of Taos.*

THE NAVAJO TRIBE,
Window Rock, Ariz., June 26, 1968.

Hon. CLINTON P. ANDERSON,
*Senator from New Mexico,
4215 Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR ANDERSON: On behalf of the Navajo Tribe and its people I ask for your support of H.R. 3306, which has now come before the Senate for further action.

The passage of this Bill is another step in the direction of furthering the rights and dignity of all Indian people.

Yours truly,

RAYMOND NAKAI,
Chairman, Navajo Tribal Council.