

**REN-19-003: Supporting Legislation to Facilitate International Repatriation of Tribal Nations' Tangible Cultural Heritage and Coordination among Federal Agencies**

*Sponsor: Pueblo of Tesuque*

**Summary:**

- The international export and sale of tribal cultural heritage in foreign auction houses continues to be a pressing issue facing tribal nations.
- Resolution REN-19-003 requests NCAI support legislation that prohibits the export of tribal cultural heritage items.

**Issue:**

Tribal cultural resources and patrimony have been subject to international export and sale in foreign auction houses. Despite repeated legal and diplomatic attempts, tribal nations continue to have difficulty in recovering cultural items slated for sale abroad.

On July 18, 2019, Representatives Ben Ray Luján (D-NM), Deb Haaland (D-NM), Don Young (R-AK), and Tom Cole (R-OK) and Senator Martin Heinrich (D-NM) and Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) introduced H.R. 3846 and S. 2165 respectively titled the Safeguard Tribal Objects of Patrimony (STOP) Act. The STOP Act attempts to address legal and diplomatic shortcomings by (1) using existing domestic laws to create legal mechanisms that will trigger applicable foreign laws and (2) enabling the use of certain provisions of international conventions to which the United States is a party.

**Action:**

REN-19-003 directs NCAI to support the STOP Act or similar legislation that:

1. Prohibits the export of tangible cultural heritage held in violation of current federal law;
2. Creates an export certificate system;
3. Confirms the authority of the President to enter into agreements under the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit, Export, and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1970); and
4. Reaffirms the Lacy Act.

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## **Resolution Action Plan: REN-19-003**

**Title:** Supporting Legislation to Facilitate International Repatriation of Tribal Nations' Tangible Cultural Heritage and Coordination among Federal Agencies

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### **Action Plan:**

- 30 Days:
  - Research and familiarize oneself with resolution subject area.
  - Contact resolution sponsor to coordinate requested assistance.
  - Assess opportunities for cross-coordination with other tribal organizations on the issue identified in the resolution.
  - Draft materials for NCAI Impact Days.
- 60 Days:
  - Prepare written materials supporting the passage of the legislation.
  - Hill visits in support of legislation, as appropriate.
- 90 Days:
  - Continue tracking the bill and assessing advocacy opportunities.
- 120 Days:
  - Continue tracking the bill and assessing advocacy opportunities.
  - Prepare activities update for NCAI Mid Year Conference.