Minority Report
Conference Committee to HB2315
Designation; Charles Keating IV Peak
May 9, 2019

I oppose H.B. 2315 designation; Charles Keating IV Peak as amended in conference committee because it fails to consider the concerns of the Gila River Indian Community.

In a letter to Governor Doug Ducey dated April 10, 2019, Gila River Indian Community Governor Stephen Lewis stipulated the Community's concerns regarding the naming of the peak within the Sierra Estrella Mountains.

The Sierra Estrella Mountains, known in the traditional languages as *Komatke Do'ag* (Akimel O'odham)/ *Vii Alhá* (Pee Posh), border the Gila River Indian Community's western border and encompass lands that are a Traditional Cultural Property of the Pee Posh and Akimel O'odham people.

The U.S. Department of Interior, National Register of Historic Places defines Traditional Cultural Properties as one that is eligible for inclusion in the National Register because of its association with cultural practices or beliefs of a living community that are rooted in the community's history and are important in maintaining the continuing cultural identity of the community.

The *Komatke Do'ag/Vii Alhá* mountain range retains traditional religious and cultural importance and figures prominently in oral traditions of both the Akimel O'odham and Pee Posh. Additionally, the O'odham teachings stipulate that a place on the cultural landscape should not be named after a deceased person.

In a resolution adopted by the Gila River Indian Community on January 18, 2017 the Community Council strongly opposed any alteration of the *Komatke Do'ag/Vii Alhá* mountain range for any purpose that would be a violation of their cultural and religious beliefs. The Council stipulates that the mountain range in its entirety is a sacred place and must not be altered from its natural state to maintain its physical and spiritual integrity.

For these reasons, I oppose H.B. 2315 as amended by the conference committee.

Senator Jamescita Peshlakai