

**Statement of Congressman Norm Dicks
On HR 1162, the Quileute Indian Tribe
Tsunami and Flood Protection bill
National Parks, Forests and Public Lands Subcommittee
September 15th, 2011**

I want to thank Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Grijalva and the other members of the National Parks, Forests and Public Lands Subcommittee for holding this hearing today on several bills including one that I have introduced, HR 1162, to provide the Quileute Indian Tribe tsunami and flood protection.

I want to recognize the people who will be testifying in favor of HR 1162, Quileute Nation Chairwoman Bonita Cleveland and Herbert Frost, who is the Associate Director for Natural Resource Stewardship and Science at the Park Service. I also want to recognize Carol Hatch and Deanna Hobson, who both serve on the Quileute Nation Tribal Council.

The threat of tsunamis is a harsh reality that the Quileute Tribe faces every day. The Tribe lives on a one-square mile reservation along the Pacific coast of the Olympic Peninsula in Washington State. It is a spectacularly beautiful place. Many of you, or at least your children or grandchildren, recognize the Quileute Tribe from the Twilight series of novels and movies.

This legislation will provide Park Service land to the Quileute Tribe to enable the re-location of many facilities outside the tsunami zone. The tragic events in Japan that we sadly witnessed earlier this year illustrate the need for this legislation.

Let me emphasize the severity of the tsunami threat. Much of the Tribe's infrastructure, including a day care center, the elder center, government offices and Quileute Tribal members' homes are

in the direct path of a potential tsunami. In addition, the Tribe faces a nearly annual flood threat from the Quillayute River.

The purpose of HR 1162 is to help the Quileutes move their people and buildings to safer land. The Olympic National Park would transfer land that is out of the tsunami zone to the Tribe for the development of new infrastructure. Of the 275 acres the Park Service would provide the Tribe for this safety purpose, 222 are currently designated as "Wilderness." The legislation would redesignate those 222 acres and would compensate this loss by designating approximately 4,000 acres in Olympic National Park as "Wilderness" as proposed in the Park's latest general management plan.

The legislation also settles a long-standing dispute between the Olympic National Park and the Tribe over the northern boundary of the Reservation. The resolution of this dispute benefits the Tribe, the Park Service and the general public. The Park would provide 510 acres to the Tribe to settle the dispute.

The bill would place into Trust these two parcels as well as another piece of non-Federal land the Tribe had acquired earlier. The bill also guarantees access for the public to some of the most beautiful Washington State beaches.

I want to thank the Quileute Tribe, National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis and Olympic National Park Superintendent Karen Gustin for their hard work over many years to resolve this dispute and provide safer land for the Tribe.

I ask the Members of the National Parks, Forests and Public Lands Subcommittee to consider the present danger to the Quileute Tribe and support this bill.

Thank you.