

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
114th Congress Disclosure Form
As required by and provided for in House Rule XI, clause 2(g)(5)

Legislative Hearing:

- **H.R. 3477 (Rep. Markwayne Mullin)**, To enhance and integrate Native American tourism, empower Native American communities, increase coordination and collaboration between Federal tourism assets, and expand heritage and cultural tourism opportunities in the United States. *“The Native American Tourism and Improving Visitor Experience Act”*; and

February 24, 2016

For Individuals:

Name:
Address:
Email Address:
Phone Number:

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For Witnesses Representing Organizations:

Name: Sherry L. Rupert
Name of Organization(s) You are Representing at the Hearing: American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association (AIANTA)
Business Address [REDACTED]:
Business Email Address: [REDACTED]
Business Phone Number: [REDACTED]

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For Nongovernment Witnesses ONLY:

1. Please attach/include current curriculum vitae or resume. (Attached to email)
2. Please list any federal grants or contracts (including subgrants or subcontracts) related to the subject matter of the hearing that were received in the current year and previous two calendar years by you or the organization(s) you represent at this hearing, including the source and amount of each grant or contract.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

3. Please list any contracts or payments originating with a foreign government related to the subject matter of the hearing that were received in the current year and previous two calendar years by you or the organization(s) you represent at this hearing, including the amount and country of origin of each contract or payment.
NONE

Sherry L. Rupert

State of Nevada Indian Commission:

Sherry L. Rupert is the Executive Director of the State of Nevada Indian Commission, appointed by Governor Kenny Guinn September of 2005. On October 10, 2013, Sherry was sworn in by Governor Brian Sandoval as the first American Indian woman to be appointed a member of his cabinet. With over 20 years of tribal, public and private business experience, she possesses a strong background in accounting, finance, business administration, tribal tourism and Indian Affairs.

Mrs. Rupert is a graduate of the University of Nevada, Reno, with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration. She is past President of the Native American Chapter of the University of Nevada, Reno Alumni Association. She has presented at numerous tribal, state, regional and national conferences and served two terms as President of the Governors' Interstate Indian Council, and was formerly its Treasurer for two terms. The Governors' Interstate Indian Council (GIIC) is a national organization promoting and protecting the various interests, welfare and well-being of American Indian people of the United States and in particular those American Indian residents within the participating states of the GIIC.

Sherry is the Chairwoman of Nevada's Indian Territory, a marketing arm of the Nevada Commission on Tourism, and was awarded the 2007 and 2008 Excellence in Tourism Award as well as the 2011 Statewide Excellence in Tourism Award from the Nevada Commission on Tourism for her success in promoting and advancing tourism in Indian Country. She was also awarded the 2009 Human and Civil Rights Award from the Nevada State Education Association for her work in the advancement of Indian education in the state.

Mrs. Rupert has a record of notable service as the American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association (AIANTA) Vice President, Treasurer, and a member of its Board of Directors (Southwest Region Representative). As a consequence, she was elected President of the Board of Directors in January 2014. The American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association is a 501(c)(3) national nonprofit association of American Indian tribes, tribal tourism, cultural and private sector representatives, representatives from the tourism industry, Federal, State and local governments, colleges and universities, and friends that was incorporated in 2002 to advance Indian Country tourism.

Last year Mrs. Rupert served on the U.S. Department of Commerce Travel and Tourism Advisory Board (US TTAB). The US TTAB, established in 2003, serves as the advisory body to the Secretary of Commerce and the White House on matters relating to the travel and tourism industry in the United States.

Sherry is an American Indian of Paiute and Washoe heritage. She is also a proud Native Nevadan, born in Carson City and raised on the Washoe Reservation in Gardnerville, Nevada. Now residing in Carson City, she is a wife and mother of two. Her eldest son proudly serves in the United States Navy.

EDUCATION

August 2002-
May 2005 **Bachelor of Science**
University of Nevada Reno, Reno, Nevada
Major: Finance

August 1999-
May 2002 **Associate of Arts**
College of Southern Nevada, Las Vegas, Nevada
Major: General Studies

PROFESSIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

September 2005-
Present **Executive Director**
State of Nevada, Indian Commission, Carson City, NV

July 2004 -
September 2005 **Administrative Assistant**
State of Nevada, Indian Commission, Carson City, NV

June 1999 -
November 2000 **Senior Financial Office Specialist**
Clark County, Comptroller's Office, Las Vegas, Nevada

March 1998 -
June 1999 **Program Officer I**
State of Nevada, Department of Business & Industry, Las Vegas, Nevada

January 1996-
March 1998 **Accounting Specialist**
State of Nevada, Department of Business & Industry, Las Vegas, Nevada

February 1993 -
January 1996 **Accountant Tech I**
State of Nevada, Department of Administration, Carson City, Nevada

February 1991 -
February 1993 **Accounting Clerk III**
State of Nevada, Department of Administration, Carson City, Nevada

June 1990 -
February 1991 **Word Processor I**
State of Nevada, Department of Administration, Carson City, Nevada

SERVICE ACTIVITIES**Local/State/Regional/Federal Service**

September 2010 -
Present **President, Board of Directors**
American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association, Albuquerque, NM

June 2013 - December 2015	Board Member <i>U.S. Department of Commerce, Travel and Tourism Advisory Board, Washington D.C.</i>
August 2008 - Present	Chairwoman <i>Nevada's Indian Territory, Carson City, Nevada</i>
April 2007 - 2010	Sierra Nevada College Native American Scholars Program Coordinator <i>Sierra Nevada College, Incline Village, Nevada</i>
December 2006 - May 2010	UNR Powwow Committee Member <i>University of Nevada, Reno; Reno, Nevada</i>
August 2006 - Present	Secretary/Treasurer, Board of Directors <i>Governors' Interstate Indian Council, Salt Lake City, UT</i>
December 2005 - July 2008	Ely Shoshone Powwow Coordinator <i>Ely Shoshone Tribe, Ely, Nevada</i>
July 2004 – Present	Stewart Father's Day Powwow Coordinator <i>Stewart Father's Day Powwow Committee, Carson City, Nevada</i>

HONORS AND AWARDS

April 2011	Statewide Excellence in Tourism Award <i>Nevada Commission on Tourism, Carson City, Nevada</i>
April 2009	Human and Civil Rights Award <i>Nevada State Education Association, Reno, Nevada</i>
April 2009	Excellence in Tourism Award <i>Nevada Commission on Tourism, Carson City, Nevada</i>
November 2007	Native American Community Leader <i>American Indian Chamber of Commerce, Las Vegas, Nevada</i>
February 2007	Graduate Horizons Scholar Seattle, Washington
March 2007	Excellence in Tourism Award <i>Nevada Commission on Tourism, Carson City, Nevada</i>

STUDENT AFFILIATIONS

February 2003 - Present	Nevada Alpha Chapter, Beta Gamma Sigma, Member <i>University of Nevada, Reno; Reno, Nevada</i> GPA Requirement of 3.5 or Better, Top 10% of Business College
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