

OFFICE OF CONGRESSWOMAN NORMA J. TORRES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 24, 2017

Contact: Anna González
Phone: (202) 225 – 6161

TORRES ELECTED RANKING MEMBER OF INDIAN, INSULAR, AND ALASKA NATIVE AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, Rep. Norma J. Torres (D-CA) was elected by the Democratic Caucus of the House Natural Resources Committee to serve as Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Indian, Insular, and Alaska Native Affairs.

“As a Californian, it is a privilege to lead Democrats on the subcommittee that handles issues so vital to the well-being of tribal and insular populations,” *said Torres*. “During my time on the Natural Resources Committee I have been deeply devoted to upholding our obligation to the welfare of Native Americans and respecting the unique government-to-government relationship between tribes and the federal government. I have also been proud to stand up against misguided efforts to manage Indian lands and have been a strong supporter of efforts to advance tribal economic self-sufficiency and sovereignty. I pledge to continue these efforts as well as bring greater attention to the challenges facing our insular areas. Tribes and people in the territories are among the most vulnerable populations that will be impacted by policies of the new administration, and I look forward to being their champion.”

As Ranking Member of the Indian, Insular and Native Alaskan Affairs Subcommittee, Torres will be the lead Democrat on the subcommittee that oversees all matters regarding Native Americans, Alaska Natives, and the insular areas of the United States. She will also serve on the Subcommittee on Federal Lands which is responsible for all matters related to the National Park System, U.S. Forests, public lands, and national monuments.

“I’m excited Rep. Torres has stepped up to the plate and will serve as the new Ranking Member of the Indian, Insular, and Alaska Native Subcommittee,” *said Natural Resources Committee Ranking Member Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ)*. “Time and time again we’ve seen Trump Republicans put polluters’ profits ahead of the wellbeing of the tribal community, so I’m thrilled Norma will be leading the charge to ensure Native land, access to water, and public health are protected. She will also be a champion for the needs of our often-forgotten fellow Americans residing in the territories. Norma is the perfect leader to help fight Republican efforts to put our relationship with Native peoples in jeopardy or limit the prosperity of our territories.”

Torres represents California’s 35th congressional district and is currently in her second term in Congress. She also served on the Natural Resources Committee in the 114th Congress.

###