

WE NEED THE **STOP** ACT NOW

Please co-sponsor the **STOP Act** ([S. 1471/H.R. 2930](#)) today, and help Native American tribes reclaim their irreplaceable cultural heritage!

On June 29, in Paris, an auction took place in which rare and ancient Native Alaskan cultural items were put up for sale, including a figurine.

The description in the catalog stated that the object was a “rare anthropomorphic figure from the Aleutian Islands region...used to adorn the hats of arctic hunters in the region,” and that “these amulets played an important shamanic role: they aimed, by their beauty, to attract prey while paying homage to them.” While admitting the spiritual and cultural importance of the item, when it came to provenance the catalog only said that the object was part of a former private collection.



Thousands of such Native American artifacts are auctioned abroad each year.

We need to make sure these items were legally acquired, and that stolen objects are returned. The **STOP Act**, a bipartisan effort, will do this by:

- Creating an explicit prohibition on the export of items obtained in violation of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) or the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA);
- Increasing penalties for violations of NAGPRA;
- Reasserting the U.S. President’s authority under the 1970 UNESCO Convention to request the return of illicitly-procured cultural property;
- Coordinating federal and tribal activities to facilitate return of tribal cultural patrimony;
- Establishing a federal framework to support voluntary returns from private collections.

Please co-sponsor the **STOP Act today.**

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