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Assembly
California Legislature

CATHLEEN GALGIANI
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, SEVENTEENTH DISTRICT



October 21, 2011

The Honorable Jerry Brown
Governor of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Brown,

I write to express my concerns regarding the Department of Interior's ("DOI") recent decision approving two off-reservation gaming projects in California. It is my hope that you will give serious consideration to the possible ramifications of concurring with the DOI's determination and setting such a precedent in California which has 21 other off-site proposed projects pending.

Californians overwhelmingly passed Proposition 1A in 2000 authorizing gaming on Indian lands as long as gaming remained on existing tribal land. The proposals approved by the DOI are contrary to the Proposition approved by the voters and also to the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA) which mandates that prior to engaging in tribal government gaming, the Tribe must have Indian lands over which the Tribe exercises governmental jurisdiction.

I strongly support the goal of Tribal self-reliance, however, the move to expansion of gaming outside of existing gaming-qualified reservation land is not what California voters intended. Both proposed gaming projects are more than thirty-five miles away from their proponents' existing tribal lands, which are currently eligible for gaming, and both seek to move into more populated areas near major transportation corridors to which they have no modern, historical, or aboriginal nexus.

I represent much of the San Joaquin Valley where we are very concerned about agricultural land preservation and are seriously impacted by traffic, pollution and water issues that would only be exacerbated by locating gaming casinos on the congested Highway 99 corridor. I respectfully ask that you encourage tribes seeking gaming projects to seek sites which are more in keeping with the standards set forth in IGF and the will of the voters to only allow tribal gaming on existing reservation land.

Thank you for your serious consideration of this issue. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I may be of assistance or you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cathleen Galgiani".

CATHLEEN GALGIANI