

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0031
(916) 319-2031
FAX (916) 319-2131

DISTRICT OFFICE
2550 MARISPOSA MALL, ROOM 5031
FRESNO, CA 93721
(559) 445-5532
FAX (559) 445-6006

E-MAIL
assemblymember.perea@assembly.ca.gov

Assembly California Legislature



HENRY T. PEREA
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, THIRTY-FIRST DISTRICT

COMMITTEES
CHAIR: REVENUE AND TAXATION
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
BANKING AND FINANCE
AGRICULTURE

October 25, 2011

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

Dear Governor Brown:

As an elected representative in the central valley, I oppose the North Fork/Station Casinos proposed off-reservation casino in Madera, and urge you to not concur with the Department of Interior's recent decision allowing it to move forward.

The North Fork/Station Casinos project is located along a frontage road for Highway 99 in Madera. The 305 acre property was purchased by Station Casinos, who intensively lobbied the federal government to make it a reservation for the North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians. This proposed casino property is located nearly fifty miles from the North Fork Rancheria's existing tribal lands, much farther than other casinos (Chukchansi and Table Mountain Casinos). In addition, the historical record shows that North Fork has no historical connection to this land.

It violates the spirit of the voters who supported Proposition 1A which allowed Indian gaming solely on tribal lands. Even the primary sponsors of Proposition 1A oppose the North Fork project because it is precisely the kind of off-reservation casino voters were assured would not be permitted if the initiative passed.

There are 21 similar off-reservation applications pending with the Department of Interior to acquire new off reservation land for gaming and 85 other applications by tribes to acquire more than 8,000 acres of land which may also be used for gaming. Allowing the proposed Madera off-reservation casino to be built would set a horrible precedent that would likely open the floodgates to many more urban casinos. United States Senators Feinstein and Boxer have strongly opposed off-reservation casinos. In letters to the Department of Interior and Governor Schwarzenegger they stated: *"We strongly oppose taking off-reservation lands into trust for gaming purposes... Frequently, off reservation gaming opportunities are sought without thorough consultation with local governments, other Indian tribes or area residents and without discussing the impacts of a casino on the environment, air, quality, noise levels, community planning and quality of life."*



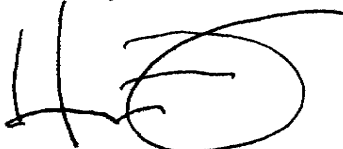
I agree with Senators Feinstein and Boxer's comments. The Department of Interior ignored the concerns of central valley local governments who analyzed the project and found it would create serious traffic congestion on Highway 99 and would lead to significant design, safety and level of service issues on Highway 99 interchanges in Madera and Fresno Counties. Hundreds of central valley businesses, religious and community organizations have opposed the North Fork/Station Casinos project because they believe it will be detrimental to their businesses and their communities.

Your predecessor hoped casino projects like this would increase revenues for the State of California. That has proven not to be the case. In fact, recent legal decisions and compacts have ruled Governor Schwarzenegger's tribal gaming compacts which imposed large assessments to the state are in violation of the federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA).

For these reasons I am urging you to reject authorizing the proposed tribal compact with the North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians.

Thank you for your consideration regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'HTP', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

HENRY T. PEREA
Assemblymember
Thirty-First District

HTP/ms