



December 13, 2006

1100 K Street
Suite 101
Sacramento
California
95814
Telephone
916.327.7500
Facsimile
916.441.5507

Mr. George Skibine, Director
Office of Indian Gaming Management
Office of Deputy Assistant Secretary
Policy and Economic Development
1849 "C" Street, NW
Mail Stop 3657-MIB
Washington, D.C. 20240

RE: Comments of Proposed Rules Regarding Gaming on Trust Lands Acquired After October 17, 1988 (25) CFR 292; 71 Fed. Reg. 58769 (Oct. 5, 2006)

Dear Mr. Skibine:

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) would like to concur with the comments provided to the Office of Indian Gaming Management by the Northern California County Tribal Matters Consortium (Consortium) regarding the Proposed Rule on Gaming on Trust Land Acquired After October 17, 1988 (71 Fed. Reg. 58769-58776 (Oct. 5, 2006)).

While the impacts of Indian gaming fall primarily on local communities and governments, Indian policy is largely directed and controlled at the federal level. Just as it is essential that tribes mitigate all off-reservation impacts caused by tribal gaming, it is just as equally important that local governments have a meaningful voice in the federal process.

In light of this, CSAC has adopted principles related to Federal Tribal Lands Policy which state that CSAC is supportive of all federal legislation that gives counties an effective voice in the decision-making process for taking lands into trust for a tribe. CSAC supports federal legislation to provide that lands are not to be placed into trust and removed from the land use jurisdiction of local governments without the consent of the State and the affected county.

Consistent with the aforementioned policy, CSAC is supportive of the efforts to prepare the much needed proposed rules. However, the comments provided by the Consortium highlight some areas CSAC also feels need some necessary improvements. CSAC has been invited and has testified previously before Congress on these issues and we hope to be part of the dialogue with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and other stakeholders on any potential revisions to the proposed rules.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments regarding this important matter. CSAC remains committed to working with state and federal lawmakers, tribes, and other local governments to help ensure that Indian gaming continues to provide opportunity and progress for tribes and neighboring communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike McGowan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small dot above the 'i' in "Mike".

Mike McGowan
Supervisor, Yolo County, California
California State Association of Counties Indian Gaming Working Group