

May 3, 2002

The Honorable Phil Wyman
California State Assembly
State Capitol Room 4102
Sacramento, CA. 95814
FAX: 319-2134 and 319-2198

RE: Opposed AB 2701

Dear Assembly member Wyman:

Stand Up For California is the only statewide organization in California giving voice to community groups, local elected representatives, members of law enforcement and individual supporters who are directly affected by the recent authorization of tribal casino gaming and issues of tribal sovereignty. We have been involved with this issue for many years and frequently serve as a resource to policymakers and elected officials at the state and national level.

We stand opposed to any change in California State statute that provides an exemption for tribal governments, which adversely and unfairly burdens the State of California and her citizens. We enthusiastically support recurring United States Supreme Court Decisions that require tribal governments to collect retail sales tax.

This proposed change is of great concern to business communities in California, which must compete with tribal governments. Tribal governments are provided resources through a variety of programs and protective legislation at both the state and federal levels. Whatever business tribal governments are operating, banks, casinos, golf courses, restaurants, bars, hotels, gas stations, truck stops, convenience stores, power plants, building homes to lease, selling new and used cars or simply operating a grocery store, their businesses are sheltered from taxes and other regulatory costs that competing business must pay, this places tribal enterprises at an unfair competitive advantage.

There is no improvement to the state or her citizens to grant this **special interest exemption** to tribal governments in California. Tribal governments do not pay local revenue yet these governments use local services. Stand Up For California urges this committee to preserve the current statutes that safeguard fair competition and the free enterprise system.

Sincerely

Cheryl A. Schmit
Director