

Stand Up For California!

“Citizens making a difference”

www.standupca.org

P. O. Box 355
Penryn, CA. 95663

September 25, 2014

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy Majority Leader,
U.S. House of Representatives
2421 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

**RE: SUPPORT H.R. 4867 the Economic Development Through
Tribal Land Exchange Act**

Dear Representative McCarthy:

Stand Up For California!, is a nonprofit corporation and serves as an advocate and information resource for community groups, local, state and federal policy makers trying to understand the complexities surrounding the expansion of tribal gaming, fee-to-trust transfers and issues of federal recognition. I write to urge you to expeditiously take up and pass H.R.4867, the Economic Development Through Tribal Land Exchange Act. This bi-partisan legislation has widespread support among local elected officials, community leaders, and tribal governments, and we ask that you work to ensure that this bill becomes law before the 113th Congress adjourns.

For years, *Stand Up For California!* has sought reforms in the federal fee-to-trust process to protect the interests of non-tribal impacted parties. Among our top priorities are revisions to guarantee that parties receive timely notification of pending trust applications, and that those parties have ample opportunity to seek the full mitigation of off-reservation impacts.

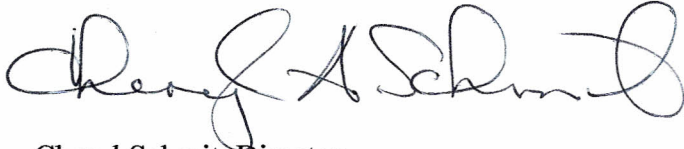
Until Congress takes up comprehensive reform of the fee-to-trust process, Stand Up For California! supports common sense legislation that addresses these challenges on a case-by-case basis. H.R.4867, the Economic Development Through Tribal Land Exchange Act, does just that. The bill provides for the mutually beneficial exchange of lands between the Morongo Band of Mission Indians, the City of Banning, CA, and Mr. Lloyd L. Fields, a landowner in the area.

The collaborative work between the Morongo Tribe, the City of Banning, and Mr. Fields represents one of the best examples of a negotiated fee-to-trust process in recent memory. The parties have worked with integrity throughout the process, and deserve to see their good work come to fruition.

H. R. 4867 Support and Pass
Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Majority Leader

Because of the United States' involvement as a trustee of existing tribal land, affirmative Congressional action is required to fulfill this goal. We urge you to quickly take up and pass this non-controversial legislation. Thank you again for your consideration, and we look forward to working with you in the future to ensure all fee-to-trust petitions meet this same high standard.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cheryl Schmit". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and a stylized "S".

Cheryl Schmit, Director
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cc: The Honorable Barbara Boxer
The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
The Honorable Raul Ruiz
The Honorable Paul Cook
The Honorable Tony Cardenas
The Honorable Doug LaMalfa