

April 18, 2011

U. S. Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senate Hart Office Building, Room 331
Constitution Avenue and Second Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20510
ATTN: Devin Rhinerson

RE: Support for the Tribal Gaming Eligibility Act

Dear Senator Feinstein:

Our community group, *Citizens for a Better Way*, supports the Tribal Gaming Eligibility Act. I have been the spokesperson for the community for the past several years. Perhaps you remember speaking to me at the Diamond Foods fundraiser for you in San Francisco. My husband, Jack Gilbert, was Chairman of the Board at the time, and remains on the Board. We spoke of our mutual disdain of reservation shopping. As I am sure you are aware, our local County of Yuba is the target of an off-reservation bid by the Enterprise Rancheria that is being financed by an out-of-state developer from Chicago.

The Enterprise Rancheria is located more than 50 miles from the Yuba County site for the proposed off-reservation casino. The Tribe first promoted the casino under the guise that it is deserving of a restored lands exception and that the land, located in Yuba County between two state highways, meets the necessary criteria for restored lands.

This is clearly a fraudulent abuse of the limited exception of restored lands in the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act. Indeed, the Tribe instead must meet the criteria of the two-part determination exception. This will be difficult as Governor Schwarzenegger, our Assemblyman Dan Logue, our Yuba County Supervisor Roger Abe, the City of Wheatland, local tribes, schools and community groups as well as individual citizens have opposed approval for a two-part determination. In fact, Yuba County electorate voted 54% against having a casino in our County.

Despite major opposition the Tribe and its out-of-state gaming investor continue to promote the casino. The Tribe has submitted its final environmental impact statement and it is filled with errors (favoring the Tribe, of course), including whether or not the zoning regulation on the proposed site legally allows Indian gaming.

Please list *Citizens for a Better Way* as firmly behind your commendable efforts to stop reservation shopping by requiring both a direct substantial ancestral and direct modern connection to the land. Bravo!

Sincerely,


Sandra Gilbert, Spokesperson
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