
ARTICHOKE JOE'S CASINO

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March 17, 2009

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
SH-331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-0504

Dear Senator Feinstein:

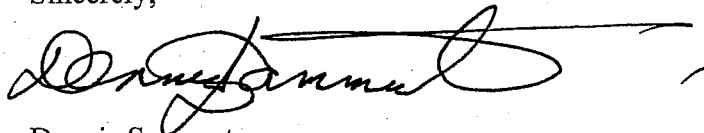
I am writing to express the support of Artichoke Joe's for S. 338, legislation to amend the Omnibus Indian Advancement Act to limit an exemption granted to the Lytton Band of Pomo Indians from the rules applicable to tribes who want to develop Nevada-style casinos or to expand class II games on newly acquired lands.

Under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, gaming is generally not allowed on lands acquired after the passage of IGRA. The Lytton, descendants of two families who lived on a rancheria in Healdsburg in Sonoma County during the 20 years it existed and who never organized as a tribe at the time, desired to purchase Casino San Pablo, in Contra Costa County, over 65 miles from their original rancheria. However, they knew that they would not qualify for the existing exemptions and knew that there would be substantial community opposition to the casino. The result was a provision added to the Omnibus Act which exempted the Lytton from rules applicable to all other tribes and which subjected the East Bay community and the Bay Area to social, economic, environmental, and safety impacts without the protections carefully built into IGRA. Your bill helps to mitigate those impacts.

While I continue to believe that the State of California would be far better served by a comprehensive set of rules that would truly level the competitive playing field between gaming Tribes and state-regulated, state taxpaying non-Tribal gaming entities, this legislation represents an important step in the right direction.

Thank you so much for your leadership on this issue. You and your staff have worked tirelessly on this legislation for many years and your Bay Area constituents have been very well served.

Sincerely,



Dennis Sammut
President and CEO