

Friends of Amador County

"The Voice of Thousands"

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April 24, 2011

Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator
Attn: Devin Rhinerson
Senate Hart Building 331
Washington, D.C. 20510
FAX: (202) 228-3841

RE: SUPPORT FOR SENATE BILL "Tribal Gaming Eligibility Act"

Dear Senator Feinstein,

The Friends of Amador County would like to thank you for your efforts towards clearing up the confusion and inconsistencies regarding the lands in California which are eligible for Indian casinos.

As you might know, the Friends of Amador County has been in the forefront of the fight to require all government agencies follow the laws and regulations regarding the approval of Indian casinos in Amador County. During the past eleven years we have discovered that all government agencies with any responsibility for regulating Indian gambling in California are inconsistent in their decisions and have ignored the concerns of our group regarding the proposed Buena Vista casino in Amador County. We have also been made painfully aware that there really is no logical procedure for making land determinations in regards to Indian casinos. In addition we have observed that federal agencies simply ignore or work around local citizens concerns leaving the general public no recourse except filing a lawsuit, which we have done.

Something is tragically wrong with the lands determination process and indeed the entire process when a Compact is given to construct a casino at Buena Vista on Fee Land. To make matters even worse, testimony was given in a congressional hearing by all parties involved, including former Senator Nighthorse Campbell that the Buena Vista site is Fee Land yet the site is approved for a casino.

The Friends of Amador County supports your "Tribal Gaming Eligibility Act" and would urge you to go even further and investigate the cause of the inconsistent enforcement of regulation and possible outright corrupt practices of the federal Indian gambling agencies in regards to the proposed Buena Vista casino.

Sincerely,


Jerry Cassesi - Chairman
Friends of Amador County