



GUIDIVILLE

Indian Rancheria

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December 2, 2010

Sent via Federal Express and Facsimile (202) 225-6498

The Honorable Jerry Lewis
United States House of Representatives
2112 Rayburn Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Senators Feinstein and Reid's Proposed Indian Lands Rider to the Omnibus Bill

Dear Representative Lewis:

I write today to alert you to very dangerous language that Senators Feinstein and Reid wish to introduce in the Omnibus spending bill and urge you to reject any proposals to establish new and unjust barriers for Indian country to spearhead economic growth during these tough economic times.

This rider language would be a sweeping change to tribal land acquisition and gaming laws without proper consultation, vetting or debate – a massive break from the tenets of transparency and both tribal and committee consultation. Also damaging, it could kill 100,000 jobs and prevent \$4 billion dollars of private investment capital in struggling local economies nationwide.

At a time when our local economies need growth and our communities need jobs, it is unwise and imprudent to inject uncertainty into a marketplace that is just managing to survive. The 22-year stability of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act ("IGRA") has made it possible for tribal governments to operate in an otherwise challenging economic environment. We believe the Senators' political agendas and rider put this at serious risk. We view this backroom deal to push a substantive IGRA amendment as an attack on hard-fought tribal sovereignty that erodes the rights of all tribes and endangers the federal government's trust responsibility.

I call upon you to carefully review any Omnibus rider, and reject any language that strips tribal governments of their rights to acquire possible gaming lands or further stifle viable economic growth opportunities that do not require one cent of government funding. I urge you to contact your colleagues in the House and Senate, particularly Representative James Moran and Senator Daniel Inouye, to let them know about your commitment to job creation and the protection of some of the most disadvantaged groups in the country.

Respectfully,

Merlene Sanchez, Chairperson