

COLORADO RIVER
Residents For Justice

"equal rights and fair treatment for all"

760-922-9653 - P.O. Box 1099, BLYTHE, CA 92225
EMAIL: CRR4JUSTICE@YAHOO.COM WEB: WWW.CRR4JUSTICE.COM

April 23, 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:

Colorado River Residents for Justice (CRR4J) is a non-profit organization located in Blythe, California. We strongly support your legislation as it provides the necessary guidance to determine if a Tribe has a nexus to the land meeting the exceptions of the IGRA. Your language provides in statute criteria upon which the Secretary of the Interior must make a determination. Moreover, that determination becomes a final agency action.

Citizens in our community organized to voice their concerns over a boundary dispute with the Colorado River Indian Tribe (CRIT) and its Tribal Court. Recently, we discovered that the Tribe had requested tribal state compact negotiations with the State of California. The States letter (2008 - a copy attached) made it clear that the States position is, there is no CRIT reservation in California.

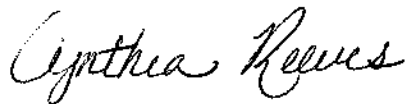
Your legislation brings hope to the citizens along the Colorado River that Congress may soon recognize the need to address the CRIT reservation boundary issue. This issue has affected the daily lives of families, businesses and seniors spending the remainder of their golden years making a home along the river.

Our community is a poster-child of the disruptive mix of state, federal and questionable tribal jurisdiction. Citizens were promised in 1964 with the introduction of the Lower Colorado River Plan, "leases" through the Bureau of Land Management. The administration of justice and civil regulatory oversight was to be through the jurisdictional authority of Riverside County. Instead, the Western Office of the BIA in Arizona and the Department of the Interior have ignored federal statutes and U.S. Supreme Court Stipulated Judgments, usurped the power of Congress and authorized the CRIT to be the leasers of federal reclamation lands. We understand all too well, the lack of fairness, objectivity and transparency in interactions with the BIA and the Department.

Today, Colorado Citizens for Justice join with citizens in communities throughout California to extend our whole hearted support to you for the legislation that you and Senator Kyl of Arizona have initiated, "*enough is enough when it comes to reservation shopping*".

Please include our voice in support of the "Tribal Gaming Eligibility Act". Thanks again for your efforts and courage to establish well-reasoned public policy.

Sincerely,



Cynthia Reeves
Board Member
Colorado River Residents for Justice
(909) 640-1672
CRR4Justice@yahoo.com
www.CRR4Justice.com



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

September 12, 2008

Via Electronic and U.S. Mail

Eric Shepard
Attorney General
Colorado River Indian Tribes
Route 1, Box 23-B
Colorado River Indian Reservation
Parker, Arizona 85344

Re: Colorado River Indian Tribes Indian Lands

Dear Mr. Shepard:

Thank you for your letter dated June 3, 2008. I also appreciate the time and effort that you took to prepare the memorandum to me, dated June 4, 2008, outlining the Colorado River Indian Tribes' position with respect to lands the Tribe believes are eligible for class III gaming in California. We look forward to rescheduling our meeting so that we can discuss these issues. However, in the meantime, we request that you address one additional issue we believe is relevant to the Indian lands question that was not discussed in your letter or memorandum.

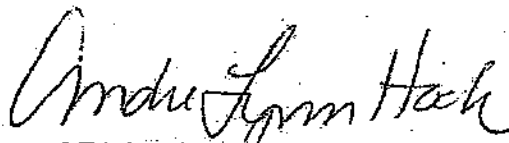
Specifically, we request that you address the 1904 Act, which terminated the CRIT reservation and allotted each Indian resident five acres. The remainder was to be sold as public domain land. (33 Stat. 224.) In 1911, the allotment to each Indian resident was increased by Congress to ten acres. (36 Stat. 1063.) In 1964, Congress restored the unsold and unallotted land in Arizona to the reservation. However, Congress also provided that the unallotted lands in California would be restored only "when and if determined to be within the reservation." (78 Stat. 188.)

As you know, the boundaries of CRIT reservation lands in California, if any, have not been resolved and are still subject to dispute. Consequently, the pre-condition in the 1964 Act to restoration of any California lands has not been satisfied. Thus, it appears that any CRIT California reservation lands, which were terminated in 1904, have not been restored.

Eric Shepard, Esq.
September 12, 2008
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Please let us know if you agree with this analysis or, if not, the basis upon which you disagree. Enclosed for your convenience are the statutory provisions referenced above. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Lynn Hoch". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

ANDREA LYNN HOCH
Legal Affairs Secretary

Enclosures