

COLORADO RIVER RESIDENTS FOR JUSTICE

EQUAL RIGHTS AND FAIR TREATMENT FOR ALL

P.O. Box 1099
BLYTHE, CALIFORNIA 92225
Email crr4justice@yahoo.com

Telephone 760-922-9653
FAX 760-922-8299
<http://www.crr4justice.com>

March 2, 2009

U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein
Attn: Dan Wessel
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

SUBJECT: SB 338 - TWO-PART DETERMINATION - TRIBAL GAMING

Dear Senator Feinstein:

Members of our organization are concerned about the latitude given to the interpretation of legislation related to the expansion of tribal gaming. Thank you for your diligent work in producing legislation that requires newly acquired lands for gaming to process through a *two-part determination*. It is our understanding that to date no tribe in California has ever successfully completed this two-part process.

We in California have become inundated with tribal casinos. Sovereign nations operate independently at major freeway off-ramps and elsewhere throughout our state by virtue of off-reservation casinos. These establishments have become a burden to law enforcement and a hazard to the safety of non-tribal members who frequent them.

While the subject legislation is specific to the Lytton Band of Pomo Indians, we urge consideration for more oversight in the development of future gaming expansion nationwide. Assurance of a process that requires tribes to obtain the direct consent of the Secretary of the Interior *and* the Governor - who must also consult with the local community and nearby tribes before Class III gaming may be allowed - is a common sense approach.

We wholeheartedly support you in the pursuit of this proposed legislation.

Yours very truly,