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April 7, 2009

The Honorable Grace Napolitano
United State House of Representatives
1610 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: S. 338 (Feinstein): Lytton Gaming Oversight Act – SUPPORT

Dear Representative Napolitano:

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC), the single, unified voice speaking on behalf of all 58 California counties, supports S. 338 by Senator Dianne Feinstein, which would require the Lytton Band of Pomo Indians to follow the two-part determination process established under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA) before engaging in Class III gaming. The legislation would allow the tribe to continue operating its Class II facility at the current site, but would preclude any expansion of the facility. On behalf of CSAC, I respectfully urge you to support S. 338 when it comes before the House Natural Resources Committee.

CSAC supports the position that all class II and class III gaming devices should be subject to IGRA and the two-part determination test. As you know, California's counties are at the forefront of responding to the myriad of challenges associated with the alarming rise of off-reservation Indian casinos in our state. In particular, county governments have been forced to expend considerable resources as a result of addressing the numerous local impacts caused by off-reservation gaming operations, including impacts related to traffic congestion, water/wastewater management, criminal justice/public safety matters, and health/social services issues. Accordingly, CSAC supports S. 338, which provides that the Lytton tribe work on a government-to-government basis with the State and counties in a respectful, positive and constructive manner to mitigate off-reservation impacts from casinos, while preserving tribal governments' right to self-governance and to pursue economic self-reliance.

Once again, CSAC supports S. 338 and urges your support of the measure. Should you have any questions regarding our position or need any additional information, please contact Joe Krahn, CSAC Federal Representative, Waterman and Associates at (202) 898-1444 or DeAnn Baker, CSAC Legislative Representative at (916) 327-7500 ext. 509.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul McIntosh".

Paul McIntosh
Executive Director
California State Association of Counties