

HAVASU LAKE CALIFORNIA SHORELINE RESTORATION ASSOCIATION

March 26, 2009

The Honorable U.S. Senator Diane Feinstein
Attn: Dan Wessel
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Fax: 202-228-3954

RE: S. 338 – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Feinstein:

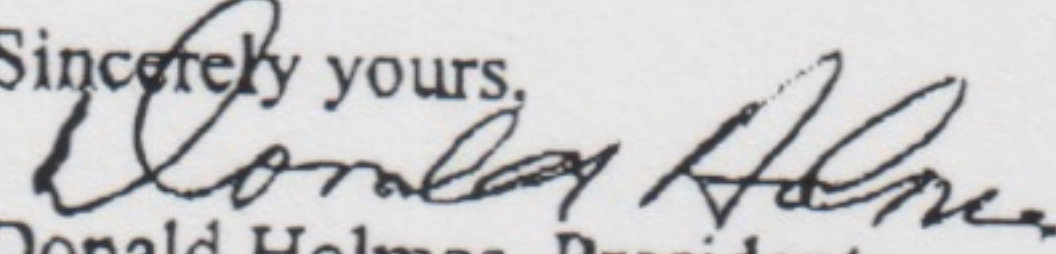
Thank you for introducing SB 338. We commend and support your efforts to restore local control to Contra Costa County and its citizens.

While we recognize S. 338 is limited to the Lytton Band in the City of San Pablo, we ask that you consider expanding S. 338 to address some of California's unique issues. In California, the Bureau of Land Management has been directed to administratively create a reservation authorized only at Secretarial discretion. It is questionable if the Secretary of the Interior has this authority in California, due to unique federal laws in our State. Moreover, this administrative action is being carried out for a Tribe recognized post 1934.

The Havasu Lake CA Shoreline Restoration Association and its members share many services/resources with the Chemehuevi Indian Tribe, providing health, safety and public welfare. However, the Chemehuevi Indian Tribe contributes only \$12,000 per year towards the fire and emergency services. The community fire department has been forced to reduce the hours of operation, causing a serious public health services issue. In the case of the area previously known as Havasu Palms, the Tribe does not contribute to any services. The County of San Bernardino is losing \$150,000 annually. The Chemehuevi are major recipients of County services but the Tribe does not contribute to the County General Fund even though its businesses are on public lands, not in trust.

Once again, thank you for introducing SB 338. It is a small step toward the necessary reform of federal Indian policy. We hope that you will consider expanding the two-part determination to all newly acquired lands in California and set specific limits and standards on the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to create reservations. Our community will unquestionably support a broader policy of reform to protect our shared resources.

Sincerely yours,


Donald Holmes, President

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