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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

June 11, 2012

The Honorable Joel Anderson
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 2054
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: *SB162 (Anderson): Economic Development: Federally Recognized Indian Tribes-
Opposition***

Dear Senator Anderson,

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to inform you of the County's formal opposition to SB162 (Anderson): Economic Development: Federally Recognized Indian Tribes.

The County of Santa Barbara recognizes the need for local governments, the State, and tribal governments to work within local land use, and public engagement process, as well as all environmental review required by CEQA, when considering future development of any magnitude. However, SB 162 summarily ignores the critical need for review and comment by the State on housing, environmental protection, and cultural preservation. Taking fee land-into-trust has significant impacts at the local level which is critical to provide public safety and other critical services to all served by the County.

Once land is formally taken into trust by any tribe, local government has no meaningful mechanism to participate. This is significant in that impacts typically generated by any development are at the local government level. Furthermore, it must be clear that once land is taken into trust for the purposes specific in SB162, housing, environmental protection or cultural preservation, the land can be later designated by the tribe for any purpose.

The County of Santa Barbara, like all local governments, relies on the State to ensure that critical public interest and policy issues are addressed. Specifically, the State must assess impacts to agriculture, Williamson Act Lands, endangered species, water resources, transportation, and fire. The State must have the ability to comment as these areas have statewide implications as well as direct health and safety and quality of life impacts to the individuals served locally.

Finally, the "Gut and Amend" of legislation to create SB162, at this stage of the legislative process, does not adhere to the spirit of public engagement and the transparency required if all local governments, the State, and tribes are to work together to mutually resolve crucial issues and concerns.

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For these reasons, the County of Santa Barbara must oppose SB162 as well as any future legislation that does not fully provide for the voice and commentary from all impacted.

Sincerely,



Doreen Farr, Chair
Board of Supervisors

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