

WILDCAT CANYON CONSERVANCY
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March 25, 2009

Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator
Attn: Dan Wessel
331 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Re: *Support S. 338*

Dear Senator Feinstein:

Congress in their wisdom in 1988 recognized the need of regional governments to address the concerns of their constituents and provided the two part determination in federal statute for after acquired lands for the development of a casino. Please list Wildcat Canyon Conservancy in Support of S. 338.

Wildcat Canyon Conservancy has had a long experience with the impacts of tribal gaming. Indeed, we live in a County that is an anomaly in the nation with 17 Indian tribal governments and 10 casinos operating. Our County and rural areas are hard hit by off reservation impacts created by massive on reservation developments which do not heed California Environmental Quality Act. Tribal developments are using the scarce natural resources that both the tribal and non tribal communities must share and depend upon.

In our opinion it is essential to not only preserve the two-part determination process but expand the rule throughout the State of California for ALL land acquisitions. Public policy with regard to tribal developments on reservations must be developed with consideration for the impact on the local communities. Local residents must have a voice in determining the long-term character of our neighborhoods and quality of life.

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The environment does not stop at a reservation boundary. Recent news articles have indicated that Congress may be willing to address broader reforms of the fee to trust process. Without question our community will support a stringent process that allows for greater accessibility and transparency. Moreover we will support greater oversight of land use on reservations and its impacts off reservation for established Indians lands.

In California and particularly in San Diego County our communities are closely interwoven. It does not make sense that differing laws are written for various plots of land that so negatively affect the greater community and regional area.

Cordially,



Robert B. Coffin
Wildcat Canyon Conservancy

RBC/ne