

SOC

Save Our Communities

November 2, 2009

Honorable Nick J. Rahall, II
Chairman Natural Resource Comm.
2307 Rayburn House
Washington, D. C. 20510
Fax: 202-225-9061

Honorable Doc Hastings
Vice Chair Natural Resource Comm.
1203 Long worth House
Washington D.C. 20510
Fax: 202-225-3251

Honorable Dale E. Kildee
2107 Rayburn House
Washington, D.C. 20510
Fax 202 225-6393

RE: AS WRITTEN: H.R. 3742 Facilitates Tribes Seeking Off Reservation Casinos

Dear Chairman Rahall, Vice Chair Hastings and Congressman Kildee:

Save Our Communities (SOC) supports more comprehensive and standardized language in any bill that requires local community and government oversight in the fee to trust transfer process. State agencies and public interest groups, such as SOC, affected by these procedures should also have a greater say in the process.

There should be a standardized procedure and regulations applicable to all transfers in language that is clearly understandable and enforceable. The Indian Reorganization Act needs to be overhauled and fixed to protect the rights of all city, community, county and state agencies and their citizens affected by Indian gaming projects.

Congressman Kildee's bill, HR 3742, is lacking these considerations and should not be passed as written. Senator Dorgan's bill, S 1703, is also lacking these considerations and should not be passed as written.

Save Our Communities has been actively working against a fee to trust acquisition of off-reservation land in a light residentially zoned area on which the Soboba Band plans to build a destination resort with a hotel, convention center, parking structures and casino. Three established retirement communities will become surrounded by Indian reservation land and become jurisdictional islands.

Mission

Save our Communities is opposed to the conversion of land from fee-to-trust and subsequent annexation to the Soboba Band of Luiseno Indian Reservation. We desire this land remain within its current boundaries and jurisdictions and zoning.

POB 682, San Jacinto, CA 92581 SOC92583@gmail.com

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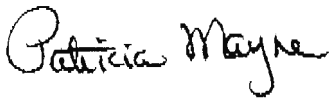
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Where in these "fix" bills is there a mention of how to balance the authority between the rights of the state and local jurisdictions and how to weigh them? Where do they address the concerns over land use, zoning, taxation and administration of justice?

Any bill must have objective standards for the acquisition of new lands. These standards should be in place for all acquisition proposals so that communities like ours can understand the rules and regulations and speak to those directly. It is difficult to address the issue when we do not know by which standards the decisions are made.

Please do not pass any bill that does not adequately address these concerns. A comprehensive bill will be good for the tribes and good for the surrounding communities.

Sincerely,



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