



# *Mooretown Rancheria*

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April 27, 2011

Senator Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senate  
331 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

Mooretown Rancheria is a federally-recognized Indian Tribe located near Oroville, California. We are writing today to express our support of your efforts to make clarifications to the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988 (IGRA), in an effort to stop abuses to the process of taking land into trust for gaming purposes. We are opposed to what is commonly called "reservation shopping".

We have a unique perspective on this issue because out-of-state investors have come to our area seeking to move tribes from their aboriginal and historic areas in an effort to develop casino projects in areas closer to population centers.

When the Department of Interior allows non-Indian interests to manipulate the process of taking land into trust it damages the tribes who have sought to play by the rules and operate their business ventures on lands known to be legitimately theirs.

The abuse and misapplication of IGRA could be devastating to our long-term economic development, social services, environmental, education and welfare programs.

When a tribe attempts to move into an area that is outside their true ancestral homeland, they are inevitably violating the sovereignty of another tribe (whether federally-recognized or not) that has a true connection to the area. The Department of Interior should not support this type of activity.

We welcome a clear statement from Congress that Indian tribes have sovereign claim to govern and have jurisdiction on their aboriginal and ancestral homelands.

Allowing and encouraging tribes to seek out lands for gaming outside their true land base is divisive, counter productive and runs counter to the intent of IGRA.

There seems to be some disconnect between the laws passed by Congress and how those laws are being implemented by the Department of Interior.

*"Concow - Maidu"*

Applications by tribes to take land into trust in areas far outside their aboriginal and historic land base should not be processed; they should be rejected.

We commend you in your efforts to bring clarity to the IGRA land-into-trust process. Tribes making an application for land into trust for gaming purposes should show substantial direct connection, an aboriginal connection, and a modern historical connection to the lands they seek to place in trust for gaming purposes. Our tribe can do so and we did as we went through the process to have our lands taken into trust.

We have a very clear understanding of our aboriginal area and our deep and significant historical ties to the land on which we live, work and conduct our government activities, including gaming activities.

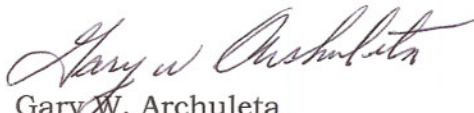
There are far too many issues that are left unresolved in regards to American Indians and their relationship to the Federal Government. We seek clarity in rulemaking, openness in the process and transparency in implementation of rules regarding how the Bureau of Indian Affairs conducts business. We have been confronting this uncertainty caused by random "reservation shopping" for more than 7 years.

This uncertainty and ambiguity in rule making is not fair to all of the communities involved. Interior and BIA should implement the laws of Congress in a timely manner. When an individual or a tribe seeks to do something that is clearly not within the law, the Government should step forward and bring conclusion to the process.

Mooretown supports the Tribal Indian Gaming Eligibility Act in its current form. As the bill moves through Congress we would welcome the opportunity to comment again and offer our unique insights and perspective.

Please feel free to contact me personally if I can be of assistance to you or your staff as you work toward fairness and equal application of the law in regards to issues around the land into trust process for gaming purposes.

Thank you again for addressing this very important issue.



Gary W. Archuleta  
Chairman  
Mooretown Rancheria

cc: Wally Herger, MC  
Tom McClintock, MC  
Senate Committee on Indian Affairs  
House Sub-Committee - Indian Affairs