



# BILL CONNELLY

SUPERVISOR, FIRST DISTRICT  
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The Honorable Ken Salazar  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20241

17 January 2012

RE: Bureau of Indian Affairs – Two Part determinations

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As the Butte County District 1 Supervisor or Commissioner with two gaming tribes, I am concerned about the following:

1. Indian Gaming is saturated and costs to local government are out stripping any positive funding.
2. Recent policy changes inside the Bureau of Indian Affairs regarding off-reservation land acquisitions for gambling are a threat to any pending fiscal balance with local government.

The new policy of the Department that would allow tribes to move from one area to another for the purposes of setting up a casino will make fiscal impacts on local government greater. This policy will also drain any fiscal resources we now receive from tribes who host gaming on their historical lands.

The people of California voted to support gaming *on Indian lands*. Having tribes move to better locations for gaming runs contrary to the will of the voters. People do not support casino gaming off of Indian reservations.

**In other words, our County Government receives a share of revenue from our local rural tribes to support public safety. If other tribes are allowed to move to more urban areas, our local tribes would suffer serious economic set backs which would ripple through the community and reduce the funds available to our local Sheriff and District Attorney.**

In objection to the new policy of the Bureau of Indian affairs that allows Indian tribes to switch their land base for the purpose of gambling, it must be stated this is now strictly a business deal, as there is no tie to local community or tribes. If carried out, this will also cause serious economic harm to the area I represent.

In the past the local population voted against reservation shopping and will be angered by any such move by your department. Yes, this includes Native Americans within my district.

Please feel free to contact me or my staff if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,  
Bill Connelly 

Butte County Supervisor, District 1

Cc: Assistant Secretary Larry Echohawk  
Congressman Wally Herger  
Senator Dianne Feinstein  
Governor Jerry Brown