



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0504

<http://feinstein.senate.gov>

August 9, 2012

The Honorable Jerry Brown
Governor
State Capitol
Sacramento, California

Dear Governor Brown:

I write to reiterate my strong opposition to the two off-reservation gaming proposals awaiting your approval. The residents of Yuba and Madera Counties oppose these projects:

- Yuba County voters rejected a casino at the proposed site by a 52-48 percent margin in 2005; and,
- A recent poll by J. Moore Methods found that 67% of Madera County voters oppose the North Fork Rancheria casino.

Based on this strong grassroots opposition, I urge you to reject these two part determinations and issue a clear policy that restricts the expansion of gaming to a tribe's modern and aboriginal lands.

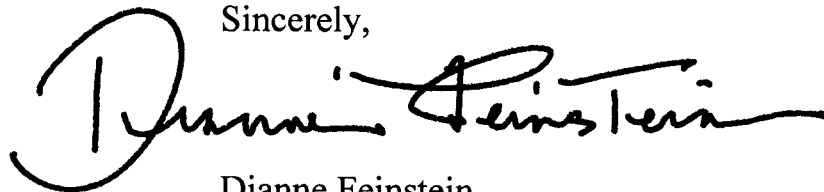
The Department of the Interior's conclusion that the proposed casinos enjoy "strong community support" is simply false. In addition to the countywide vote, of the 21 local officials polled by the Department of the Interior on the Yuba Casino, only one (Yuba County) supported the project. However the Department bases its assertion on the County's 2002 Memorandum of Understanding with the tribe, a document that was executed nearly three years prior to the countywide vote. Furthermore, three of the 21 officials expressed outright opposition to the casino, while the remaining 16—including myself—did not respond. Unfortunately I never received this letter. If I had, four officials would be on record opposing this off-reservation gaming proposal.

In addition to the recent polling data in Madera County, two of the 12 elected officials that were consulted by the Department of the Interior expressed opposition to the casino, with only one expressing conditional support. Again, if I were to have been contacted, I would have expressed my firm opposition to this off reservation project. Also of note, the Fresno County Farm Bureau, which represents the most productive agricultural county in the nation, has expressed concern that the development of these projects would “set a very negative precedent,” that could threaten “prime farmland.”

As you know, the proliferation of gaming establishments in California since 1999 has been unparalleled—67 new casinos have opened the last 12 years. And today, with the market already saturated, tribes from rural areas are “reservation shopping” for casinos in more densely populated areas to obtain a better share of the market. This cannot be allowed to happen; enough is enough. It is my hope that in rejecting these projects you will issue a policy statement which sets clear standards about how your administration will consider two-part determination gaming projects in the years to come. Such a statement will provide all parties—whether they are supportive of, or opposed to the expansion of gaming—with clarity on which tribes will be eligible for off-reservation casinos and where they will be considered.

I understand that this has been a very controversial issue and I appreciate your thorough review of the material. I remain staunchly opposed to these projects and I hope that you will join me in blocking the unrestricted expansion of gaming in California. Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to seeing you next week.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Dianne Feinstein". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "D".

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

DF:dr