



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0504

<http://feinstein.senate.gov>

September 23, 2011

The Honorable Jerry Brown
Governor
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Jerry:

I write to urge you to reject the two off-reservation gaming proposals submitted for your approval this week by the Department of the Interior. The gaming proposals put forward by the Enterprise Rancheria in Yuba County and North Fork Rancheria in Madera County will strain State and local resources and public services, and they should be denied.

Officials at the Department of the Interior approved these projects despite overwhelming opposition from California voters and elected officials. The following instances indicate substantial public opposition to the proposed projects:

- **California voters overwhelmingly approved Proposition 1A (64%-36%)** in 2000 which allowed tribes to operate casinos *provided that they did so "on Indian lands."* In both cases, the tribes seek to place casinos on land which is not currently held in trust by the federal government.
- **The residents of Yuba County voted to oppose the proposed casino in 2005 (52%-48%).** The casino is also opposed by:
 - State Assemblyman Dan Logue
 - Supervisor Roger Abe
 - Supervisor Andy Vasquez
 - Sutter County Supervisor James Gallagher
 - Former Sheriff Virginia Black
 - Former Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
 - Sierra Nevada Chapter of the Sierra Club

- **Local elected officials and groups oppose the North Fork project in Madera County** including:
 - City of Madera Mayor Robert Poythress;
 - County Supervisor David Rogers, who represents district where site is located;
 - Board of Education President Robert Garibay;
 - Board of Education Members Ricardo Arredondo, Jose Rodriguez and Maria Velarde-Garcia;
 - Community College District trustee Isabel Barreras; and
 - The Madera County Farm Bureau

The Department of the Interior’s conclusion that the proposed casinos enjoy “strong community support” is simply false. Of the 21 local officials polled by the Department of the Interior on the Yuba Casino, only one (Yuba County) supported the project (and it must be noted that their support is tenuous given the outcome of the 2005 popular vote). Three officials expressed outright opposition, 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 the case of the Madera proposal, two of 12 recipients expressed opposition to the proposal, 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.

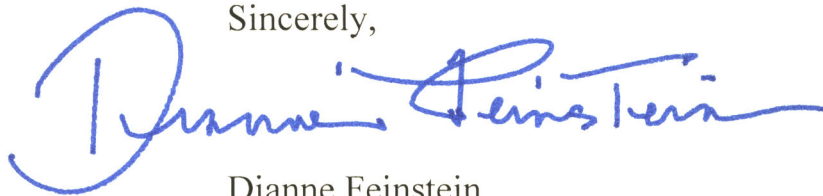
The finding that the proposed casinos will not be detrimental to their surrounding communities is far-fetched. Despite the creation of some short term revenue and jobs, local governments pay a heavy price for answering the siren song of gambling, including addiction, crime, strained public services, environmental damage and increased traffic congestion. Not only have I personally witnessed these consequences since the approval of Proposition 1A , but **the 2006 California Research Bureau report entitled “*Gambling in the Golden State*” established that casinos are associated with a ten percent increase in violent crime, a ten percent increase in bankruptcy rates, a per capita increase of \$15.34 for law enforcement and an estimated cost of \$1 billion to deal with problem- and pathological-gamblers in our State.**

The proliferation of gaming establishments in California since 1999 has been unparalleled — 67 new casinos have opened their doors in just over 11 years. And today, with the market already saturated, tribes from rural areas are “reservation shopping” for casinos in densely populated urban areas to obtain a better share of the market. This cannot be allowed to happen, enough is enough.

Fortunately neither the North Fork nor the Enterprise proposal can proceed without your approval. I ask that you to stand with the voters of our state, and the many state and local officials who oppose off-reservation gaming, and block these ill-conceived casino projects.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, and I look forward to working with you on this and many other issues of importance to our mutual constituents. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or have your staff contact Devin Rhinerson in my Washington D.C. office at (202) 224-2004.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dianne Feinstein". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

DF:dr