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The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

16 November 2015

Dear Senator Feinstein;

This letter is in opposition to off-reservation tribal casinos and tribes switching from Class III gaming to Class II gaming. Tribes do this to circumvent required oversight and collaboration.

Thank you for your efforts to mitigate the impacts of major casino developments on local communities, particularly those that are located far from existing tribal trust lands. Please make sure that Tribes that use the promise of economic benefit to induce support for a Class III facility do not substitute a Class II facility. This latest policy development allows tribes to come into communities with no agreements for their impacts and completely circumvent the process of requiring tribes to work as partners with local governments. It will make a mess of things in California.

This new BIA loophole cuts local and state governments out of the decision-making process and ensures that major casinos may be constructed and operated outside of the normal regulatory process. This is unfair to other tribes who play by the rules.

Thank you for your consideration and efforts to protect Butte County and other rural areas from this type of ill-conceived Federal Policy.

Sincerely,

Bill Connelly
Supervisor First District