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Assembly California Legislature



JARED HUFFMAN
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, SIXTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES
CHAIR, WATER, PARKS AND
WILDLIFE
BUDGET
NATURAL RESOURCES
UTILITIES AND COMMERCE

BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO.3
ON RESOURCES

August 17, 2010

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Federated Indians of the Graton Rancheria

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

We understand that the Federal Government might soon accept title to land in and adjacent to Rohnert Park in Sonoma County in trust for the Federated Indians of the Graton Rancheria. We further understand that the Graton Indians desire to develop and operate a casino at the site. We write to express our strong opposition to provision of a gaming compact for the Graton Indians.

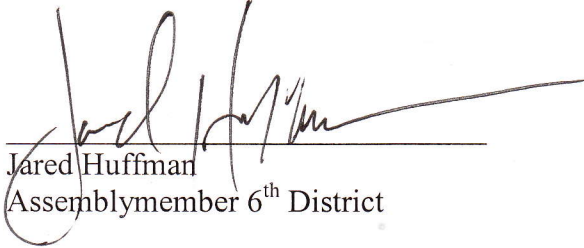
An Indian casino in the Rohnert Park area would raise many issues. When voters approved Proposition 1A, there were concerns that Indian gaming would spread from remote, less populated areas of the state to urban, highly populated areas. At the time, Indian tribes promised that Indian gaming would not spread to urban areas, and this proposal would betray the voters' intent.

The parcel at issue is not only in an urban setting, but would be the first Nevada-style casino in the entire San Francisco Bay Area, and arguably in the state. Voters were comfortable with casinos in remote areas that cater to tourists, but they did not and do not feel the same about gambling in urban areas. Many local residents have objected to the placement of an Indian casino at this location due to numerous concerns, including the creation of significant traffic issues on state highways and local streets traffic, environmental effects, the increase in socio-economic problems and demand for social services among the whole Bay Area, including problem gaming and increases in crime ranging from domestic abuse to workplace theft. We share those concerns

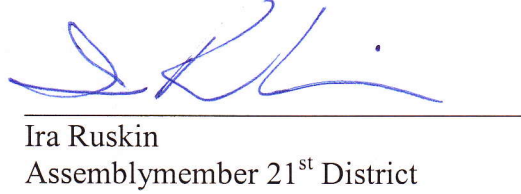
Further, we note that when hearings were being held on the Graton Rancheria Restoration Act, the Graton Indians originally promised not to have casino gambling.

All of these issues are very troubling and for these reasons, we are opposed and will vote against the proposed compact for the Federated Indians of the Graton Rancheria that comes before us.

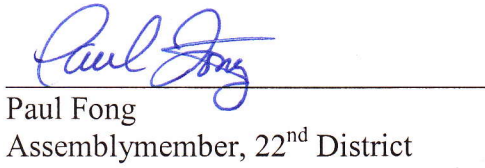
Respectfully,



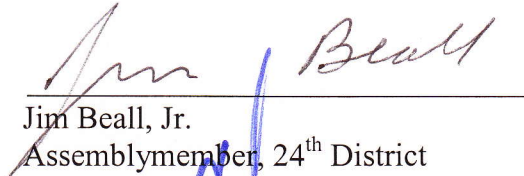
Jared Huffman
Assemblymember 6th District



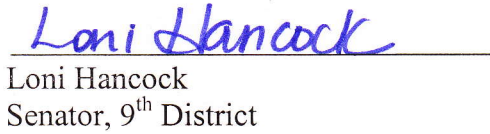
Ira Ruskin
Assemblymember 21st District



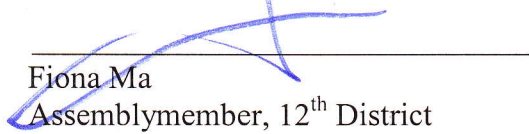
Paul Fong
Assemblymember, 22nd District



Jim Beall, Jr.
Assemblymember, 24th District



Loni Hancock
Senator, 9th District



Fiona Ma
Assemblymember, 12th District
