

2 P R O C E E D I N G S

3 MS. THOMAS: Thank you very much, sir.

4 Also representing the Picayune Rancheria is
5 Dora Jones.

6 Dora, if you could come up, please.

7 MS. JONES: Thank you. My name is Dora
8 Jones. I appreciate the opportunity to speak before
9 you. I'm the vice chair of Picayune Rancheria of the
10 Chukchansi Indians.

11 My testimony tonight is to inform you that a
12 number of elected officials from throughout the State
13 of California have expressed their opposition to this
14 project at its proposed location, Madera.

15 The following is a list of officials that have
16 submitted letters of opposition to the Bureau of Indian
17 Affairs regarding this project.

18 Senate Pro Tem, Don Perata, Democrat-Oakland.

19 Senate Republican Leader Dave Cogdill,
20 Republican-Modesto.

21 Senate GO Chairman, Dean Florez,
22 Democrat-Shafter.

23 Senator Jeff Denham, Republican-Merced.

24 Assemblyman -- Assembly Republican leader Mike
25 Villines, Republican-Clovis.

1 Assemblymember Tom Berryhill,
2 Republican-Modesto.

3 Assemblymember Nicole Parra,
4 Democrat-Bakersfield.

5 Assemblymember Cathleen Galgiani,
6 Democrat-Livingston.

7 Assemblymember Tony Mendoza, Democrat-Los
8 Angeles.

9 Assemblymember Jared Huffman, Democrat-San
10 Rafael.

11 Assemblymember Greg Aghazarian,
12 Republican-Stockton.

13 Assemblymember GO Chairman Alberto Torrico,
14 Democrat-Fremont.

15 And Assemblymember Kevin DeLeon, Democrat-Los
16 Angeles.

17 I'd like to quote the following from
18 Assemblymember DeLeon's letter.

19 He states: "I write to express my objections
20 to a proposed move by the North Fork Rancheria from
21 their current and historical rancheria in the Sierra
22 Foothills nearly 50 miles away from the Highway 99
23 corridor. This proposed move will create a significant
24 precedent for tribal gaming statewide. Specifically, I
25 am concerned that catapulting this rancheria from the

1 foothills down to Highway 99 would trigger a statewide
2 land rush to our urban corridors that will play out for
3 years to come and have massive consequences for their
4 entire state."

5 As you can see, representatives from all over
6 California have united in their opposition to this
7 off-reservation site in Madera.

8 It is clear that there should be additional
9 consultation before the Bureau of Indian Affairs makes
10 decisions on this project. Certainly, meetings with
11 our neighboring Valley governments are imperative to
12 this process: Fresno County, the City of Fresno, City
13 of Clovis, Merced County, the City of Merced.

14 A true government-to-government tribal
15 consultation should also be conducted with all
16 neighboring tribes including Picayune Rancheria of
17 Chukchansi Indians, Table Mountain Rancheria, Cold
18 Springs Rancheria, Big Sandy Rancheria, Santa Rosa
19 Rancheria, Tuolumne Band of Mi-Wuk Indians and Tule
20 River.

21 Don't misunderstand us. We do support North
22 Fork Rancheria building a casino in their community of
23 North Fork.

24 Thank you.

25