



# Mooretown Rancheria

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March 15, 2016

The Honorable Sally Jewell  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C St. NW  
Washington D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell:

The people of California have made it clear that they support Indian gaming on Indian lands. First in 1998, with an initiative statute (Proposition 5), and again in 2000 with a Constitutional amendment (Proposition 1A), California's voters approved Class III tribal gaming, but required that these activities be conducted and operated on tribal lands. Propositions 5 and 1A both passed overwhelmingly with more than 60 percent of the vote.

Fourteen years later, the voters' position remained remarkably consistent. 61 percent of Californians rejected Proposition 48—the referendum on North Fork's off-reservation casino compact. And citing similar concerns, the California Legislature did not ratify the Enterprise compact that also would have authorized a casino far outside of the tribe's aboriginal lands that already are eligible for gaming under IGRA.

Unfortunately, under the new *North Fork* and *Enterprise* paradigm the clear roles of the California Legislature and the state's voters are diminished to a non-discretionary rubber stamp of a casino promoter's decision about where to finance new tribal gaming facilities. Put simply, constitutionally valid referenda and deliberative legislative consideration on gaming compacts cannot and should not be construed as “bad faith negotiations.” Doing so jeopardizes the generation of good will and mutual trust built between California's tribal nations and the State.

Consequently, we ask that if Class III Secretarial Procedures are initiated in the case of North Fork and Enterprise, that you limit gaming to the tribes' initial reservation lands and preserve the mutually beneficial state-tribal gaming compact system.

*“Concow - Maidu”*

Allowing third party casino investors to dictate where new tribal casinos are located create far more problems for tribal governments than it fixes. While individual tribes may see some new revenues, other tribes that have played by the rules will have their investments subverted and experience catastrophic reductions in government revenues. This will lead to diminished tribal contributions to basic government services such as healthcare, housing, education and other critical social services. Furthermore, as investors see the opportunity to build tribal casinos far away from tribal lands and in urban environments, policies that facilitate reservation shopping only incentivize further conflict between tribes and our neighboring local and state governments. This breeds an environment of mistrust as the specter of gaming poisons all tribal trust application, hurting all tribes.

Thank you for your support and we look forward to working with you to ensure that the Department upholds its sacred trust responsibilities to all tribal nations, not just those seeking to bend the rules for their financial benefit.

Sincerely,



Gary W. Archuleta  
Tribal Chairman  
Mooretown Rancheria