

MIKE THOMPSON

1ST DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

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SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY
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September 22, 2010

Virgil Akins, Director
Northern California Agency
Pacific Regional Office
Bureau of Indian Affairs
1900 Churn Creek Road, Suite 300
Redding, CA 96002-0292

Dear Director Akins:

The Singley Hill Homeowners Association of Loleta requested I contact you regarding the on-sale alcohol license granted to the Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria. In 2006, the Tribe secured an Alcohol Beverage Control board (ABC) license. Due to objections raised by the neighbors and as a result of an appeal hearing before the ABC, the license was granted *conditioned* upon modifying the entrance to the tribal facility (see below).

Specifically referenced as Condition #8:

“The licensee shall modify the entrance from Singley Road to Bear River Drive so that public vehicular ingress and egress is available only to and from the south of Singley Road. The modified entrance or separate entrance shall provide access to the premises from the north on Singley Road for emergency vehicles only.”

The modification to the entrance was never made and, in fact, in subsequent court documents the Tribe argued they were prevented from making the modification because the Bureau of Indian Affairs, through its trustee relationship with the Tribe, “ordered” that the modification be undone. This fact remains inexplicable to the neighbors and to the County of Humboldt.

An appeal hearing before an Administrative Law Judge on October 7th will review this issue again. Could you please provide our office and the Singley Hill Homeowners Association a written explanation of the BIA’s refusal to allow for the entrance modification.

If I may answer any questions please contact me direct or my staff member, Elizabeth Murguia at (707) 269-9595. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Thompson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

MIKE THOMPSON
Member of Congress

MT:lm

cc: Dale Risling, Acting Regional Director
Jim McVicker, Singley Hill Homeowners Association
Jimmy Smith, Humboldt County Board of Supervisors