



Stand Up For California!

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Cheryl Schmit, Co-Director
Patty Neifer, Co-Director

January 7, 2000

D. Robert Shuman
Chief Deputy Legal Affairs Secretary
Office of the Governor Gray Davis
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Tribal State Gaming Compact, Rohnerville Band

Dear Chief Deputy Shuman:

On January 3, 2000, Assembly Daily File, page 40, unfinished business, Tribal State Gaming Compacts, lists additional tribes that have completed negotiations with the Governors office for class III gaming. **The Rohnerville Bear Band does not have "legal land status" for a casino at their currently proposed site.** The property located on Singly Road is land that was acquired after the 1988 cut off date of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, in addition to land that the tribe already held in trust. This tribe fails compliance with the Davis Compact section 4.2. Attached is a letter dated September 10, 1997, from Congressman Frank Riggs, who has documented this tribes disregard to its commitments to the broader community and its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws, authorities and executive orders.

The land in question was purchased in 1990 with Housing and Urban Development money. When this tribe entered into an agreement with HUD for housing funds, it agreed to certain conditions. Namely, that the funds were to be used for housing for needy Indians, not the development of an unwanted casino in the midst of a residential neighborhood with tax payers money. The tribe's proposal is without regard to the concerns of health and safety to their neighbors and County Officials who are accountable for responsible land use and development.

Stand Up For California asks that you remove this tribal state compact from the list to be approved by the legislature until "legal land status" for this tribe is verified by your office. Ratification of the Rohnerville Band's compact could result in the Bureau of Indian Affairs accepting your signature as concurrence for an Off-Reservation Casino, setting a precedent in California for tribal expansion off of "Indian Lands". Moreover, circumventing the rights of citizens of Singly Hills Homeowners Association and Humboldt County the opportunity to follow a federal process to oppose an unwanted Off Reservation Casino in an environmentally sensitive an inappropriate location. This one step to verify "legal land status", will ultimately eliminate many of the frustrations and tensions of citizens in communities when tribal casinos are proposed, established or expanded.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Schmit
Co-Director

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