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SENATOR
MIKE THOMPSON
SECOND SENATORIAL DISTRICT



May 12, 1997

The Honorable Ada E. Deer
Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs
U.S. Department of Interior
Room 4140, Main Interior Building
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Secretary Deer:

I am writing again concerning the construction activities of the Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria in Humboldt County, California. I first wrote to you on April 17th. I have not received a response, and unfortunately, the matter is more urgent today than it was then.

Despite ongoing construction activity on site, the Rohnerville Rancheria has not yet received lead agency approval as required by the National Environmental Policy Act. A casino, parking lot and wastewater treatment facility are under construction while the Environmental Assessment document is being circulated for comment. Rancheria officials continue to move forward with the construction project. On Sunday, May 11th, heavy equipment operators dug into an aquifer which threatens an adjacent property owners drinking water.

Again, local government officials and local citizens appear to have no recourse. I would appreciate knowing what, if any, federal agency has jurisdiction over this project.

Your immediate attention would be most appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Thompson".

MIKE THOMPSON
Senator, 2nd District

MT:com

cc: Bruce Babbitt, Secretary of the Interior
National Indian Gaming Commission
Carol Browner, Environmental Protection Agency
Ron Jaeger, Area Administrator, BIA Sacramento Area Office
Supervisor Stan Dixon

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