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UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

April 6, 2004

ASSISTANT MAJORITY WHIP

COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES

SUBCOMMITTEES:
WATER AND POWER
ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

SUBCOMMITTEES:
DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS, OVERSIGHT,
NUTRITION AND FORESTRY
SPECIALTY CROPS AND
FOREIGN AGRICULTURE PROGRAMS

Mr. Daniel Shubin
16250 Mustang Drive
Springville, California 93265

Dear Mr. Shubin:

Thank you for writing to continue our conversation on the Tule River Tribe. As you may remember our last communication was about the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988.

To recap, existing federal law was established to provide a clear process under which a tribal government may seek to extend gaming activities to property acquired after the passage of the 1988 regulatory Act.

You may already know, but the 40 acres on Hwy 190 that the Tule River Tribe plans to build a gaming facility was placed into trust over ten years ago. At this point, that land is beyond the control of Congress. You state in your letter that the Tribe is asking the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to place another 35 acres into trust. I have contacted the BIA to confirm this information and found that the Tribe **has not** submitted an application to place the land into trust. Furthermore, I contacted the Tribe to inquire about their intent and they informed me that at this point they do not have plans to submit an application.

While I have not taken a position on the recent actions of the Tule River Tribe, I do recognize the work they have done within the community of Porterville and surrounding areas. If fact, the Tribe has invested millions of dollars in economic development activities throughout the community and they continue to operate key facilities at the airport which has created hundreds of jobs. Considering that our area suffers double digit unemployment, this is a significant contribution. Nevertheless, if the Tribe were to fail in their duty of good relations with neighboring communities, I would be the first to speak out.

I have asked the tribe to continue its work with the community of Springville to address any and all outstanding issues. It is my hope that concerns about the casino relocation can be addressed in a manner that satisfies both local community concerns and tribal needs.

Thanks again for contacting my office. Please feel free to call or write again if you have any additional questions or concerns. You may also visit my web page at www.nunes.house.gov for current Congressional activities.

Sincerely,

Devin Nunes
Member of Congress