



OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

November 19, 2013

The Honorable Sally Jewell
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell,

We write to express our opposition to allowing lands to be put into trust in Southern Oregon in order to facilitate construction and operation of a Class II casino. While we strongly support efforts to economically empower and diversify all of Oregon's tribes, allowing this exception would directly contradict longstanding policy between tribes and the State of Oregon.

Approval of the proposal currently before you from the Coquille Tribe of Oregon would disrupt this established policy, allowing one tribe to operate a second gaming facility in non-aboriginal lands in Medford, Oregon. Your approval of the trust request would allow construction and operation of a Class II gaming facility not subject to oversight or review by the Department or the Governor.

The Governor of Oregon, Senators Wyden and Merkley, Congressman Blumenauer, the Jackson County Commission, and the City of Medford have expressed their strong opposition to placing those lands into trust. We join them in urging you to deny the request. We further note that just one year ago, the voters in our state overwhelmingly rejected an effort to expand gaming by bringing a casino to an urban center. Should you approve the trust request, you will begin that process against the wishes of the state, as most or all of Oregon's tribes will quickly follow with their own trust land applications to seek entry into every urban center in the state. We seek your assistance in avoiding setting this precedent. We stand with the local community, region, and the Governor of our state, in asking you to reject the trust request.

Sincerely,

Diane Rosenbaum

Senator Diane Rosenbaum
Senate Majority Leader

Val Hoyle

Representative Val Hoyle
House Majority Leader

Cc: The Honorable John A. Kitzhaber, MD
The Honorable Ron Wyden
The Honorable Jeff Merkley
The Honorable Earl Blumenauer
Commissioner Doug Breidenthal
Commissioner John Rachor
Commissioner Don Skundrick
Mayor Gary Wheeler