

Dear Secretary Zinke,

November 1, 2018

As State Legislators that represent the Southern Oregon, we are writing in opposition of a proposed casino development in Medford, Oregon.

The proposal by the Coquille Tribe should not be approved. If it is, the implications go far beyond Southern Oregon and could open the door to the proliferation of casinos across Oregon without the approval of local communities or a compact with the state.

Oregon has a long-standing one-casino per tribe on reservation land policy. This policy has struck the right balance of providing economic opportunities to Oregon Tribes with limited gaming in our state. This proposal would disrupt that balance.

The Coquille already has a casino on their reservation in Coos Bay. This proposal for a second casino is on property that was a Chinese Restaurant, of which they have no ancestral ties to the land, and is 180 miles away from their reservation on the coast.

If your Administration supports the argument that service territory qualifies Tribes to site Class II casinos without any local input, a compact with the state, and without having to adhere to the Indian Gaming and Regulatory Act approval process, the Coquille Tribe will have the opportunity to open casinos throughout their service areas, which extends up into Lane County.

Without doubt, if approved, other Tribes will follow suit and the State of Oregon will forever change without any input from local residents, who have already spoken more than once at the ballot and rejected the expansion of gaming from any entity.

We urge you as representatives of Oregon to deny this application.

Sincerely,

Senator Dallas Heard



Representative Carl Wilson



Representative Cedric Hayden



Senator Herman Baertschiger



Representative Gary Leif

