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THIRD DISTRICT, WASHINGTON

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April 11, 2006

Stanley Speaks  
Regional Director  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Northwest Regional Office  
911 NE 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Portland, OR 97232

Dear Mr. Speaks:

I am writing to express my concern with the Scoping Report for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, prepared by HDR, Inc. and Cogan Owens Cogan, LLC, for the Cascade Locks Resort and Casino Project by the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs. Of the thirteen alternatives identified, the Scoping Report identifies four to be analyzed in detail in the Environmental Impact Statement. The four alternatives identified for detailed consideration include No Action, Cascade Locks Resort and Casino, and two Hood River Alternatives.

I am concerned that the Environmental Impact Statement will not analyze in detail any alternatives outside of the Columbia River Gorge. In fact, two of the three action alternatives are within the boundaries of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. The remaining action alternative is immediately adjacent to the National Scenic Area.

It is my understanding that the National Environmental Policy Act requires that environmental impact statements analyze a reasonable range of alternatives. I am concerned that the alternatives identified in this Scoping Report do not reflect a reasonable range. It seems that it will be extremely difficult to adequately analyze the environmental impacts of the proposed casino in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area without analyzing the comparative environmental impacts of a casino in an area away from the Scenic Area.

I remain committed to ensuring that the process surrounding the Warm Springs casino proposal is as fair as possible. In keeping with this position, I respectfully request that the Bureau of Indian Affairs revisit the Scoping Report and identify alternatives for analysis that are away from the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

I look forward to your prompt attention to this matter. If you have any questions or need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Baird". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Brian Baird  
Member of Congress