



March 13, 2006

The Honorable Richard Pombo
Chairman, United States House Committee on Resources
2411 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Sent Via Fax: 202.226.0861 & 209.951.1910

Dear Congressman Pombo:

We are writing to express our opposition to the proposed off-reservation casino in the Columbia River Gorge community of Cascade Locks, 30 miles east of Portland in Oregon. We urge you and your committee to approve IGRA reform legislation that a) bans off-reservations casinos, b) includes no loopholes allowing special treatment to approve the Gorge casino and c) treats all of Oregon's Native American tribes equally.

It is our hope that H.R. 4893 will not only ban off-reservation casinos, but will not contain any loopholes or ambiguous language allowing the Columbia River Gorge Casino to go forward, despite 63% of Oregonians opposing it. Any loophole of this kind would be unfair to Oregon's Indian tribes and would be against the wishes of most Oregonians.

All Oregon Indian tribes should be treated equally. A legislative loophole allowing one tribe an off-reservation casino, while requiring others to stay on reservation land, is not fair. State and Federal policies should not treat tribes differently. In addition to being unfair, it will ultimately lead to casinos far beyond what was envisioned when IGRA was enacted.

While we fully support and respect the desire of all Native American tribes to seek economic opportunities to improve the lives of their members, we do not believe it is wise to open the door to off-reservation casinos across Oregon when ample opportunities for successful on-reservation casinos currently exist. Public opinion polls show that Oregonians do support on-reservation gambling and are fearful that opening the door for the first off-reservation casino, will lead to many more.

As expressed to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs by Friends of the Columbia Gorge and The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde on February 28th, allowing an off-reservation casino in the Columbia River Gorge sets a dangerous precedent.

We urge you to oppose the Gorge casino request, to maintain policies that allow casinos only on reservation lands, and to support federal legislation without a Gorge casino loophole that treats all tribes equally.

Thank you for your consideration.

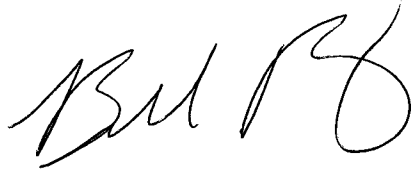
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike McCallum". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Mike McCallum
President/CEO
Oregon Restaurant Association

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregg Mindt". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized, with a prominent dot above the first letter.

Gregg Mindt
President/CEO
Oregon Lodging Association

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Perry". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized, with a large loop at the end.

Bill Perry
Director of Government Affairs
Oregon Restaurant Association

CC:

Members, House Resources Committee