



TINA KOTEK
GOVERNOR

April 13, 2023

Tribal Chairman Diane Teeman
Burns Paiute Tribe
100 Pasigo Street
Burns, OR 97720

Tribal Chairperson Brenda Meade
Coquille Indian Tribe
3050 Tremont
North Bend, OR 97459

Tribal Chairman Carla Keene
Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians
2371 Stephens Street, Suite 100
Roseburg, OR 97470

Tribal Chairman Clayton Dumont, Jr.
Klamath Tribes
PO Box 436
Chiloquin, OR 97624

Tribal Chairman Brad Kneaper
Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and
Siuslaw Indians
1245 Fulton Ave.
Coos Bay, OR 97420

Tribal Council Chair Cheryle Kennedy
Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
9615 Grand Ronde Road
Grand Ronde, OR 97347

Tribal Chairman Delores Pigsley
Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
201 SE Swan Avenue
Siletz, OR 97380

Board of Trustees Tribal Chair Kat Brigham
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian
Reservation
46411 Timine Way
Pendleton, OR 97801

Tribal Chairman Jonathan W. Smith, Sr.
Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
1233 Veterans Street
Warm Springs, OR 97761

Dear Tribal Chairs,

Thank you for your support and friendship as I have begun my new administration. I look forward to working with you to take on our state's toughest challenges.

A topic of great interest to Tribes, legislators, and communities across our state is gaming. I recognize that Tribal gaming and State gaming are complex and multi-faceted enterprises that involve Tribal, federal, and state interests. My staff and I have benefitted immensely from an array of discussions about Tribal gaming interests, concerns, and suggestions.

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The primary inquiry has been about my position or policy on gaming generally. More specifically, what is my position on past governors' policies of one tribal gaming facility per tribe on reservation land?

Throughout my legislative career, during my campaign for this office, and since the start of my administration, I have been clear that I do not favor an expansion of gaming. This applies to Tribes and the State. Therefore, my policy on Tribal gaming facilities maintains the status quo from past governors, i.e., good faith bargaining between sovereign Tribes and the State on one gaming facility per tribe on reservation land.

There is also the Coquille Tribe's application to the Department of Interior and Bureau of Indian Affairs to have land in Medford taken into trust for the purpose of gaming (Class II). This proposal would not only lead to the expansion of gaming in that area but would create many more concerns about the expansion of gaming statewide. I agree with former Governor John Kitzhaber's May 6, 2013 letter and former Governor Kate Brown's April 13, 2016 letter to the BIA in opposition to this gaming proposal. With this letter, I wish to state my opposition to the Coquille Tribe's Medford Casino Project.

I wanted to provide this clarification of my Tribal gaming policy so that Tribes, the federal government, and local entities know where I stand. This helps all of us avoid confusion, use of resources, and advocacy for and against changing my stance in favor of one gaming facility per tribe on reservation land.

I remain committed to working closely with Tribes, the federal government, state agencies, and our broader communities to enhance Tribal affairs for the betterment of all our people.

Sincerely,



Governor Tina Kotek

cc: Tribal Gaming Directors
Secretary Deb Haaland, U.S. Department of Interior
Bryan Newland, Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, U.S. Department of Interior
Mike Wells, Interim Director, Oregon Lottery
Karen Clevering, Oregon Department of Justice
Major Turner, Oregon State Police, Tribal Gaming Section