

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 12, 2016

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20240


Dear Secretary Jewell:


This letter is to express our concerns about the proposed acquisition of land to be taken into trust for the use and benefit of the Coquille Indian Tribe, with the intention to operate a Class II gaming facility in Medford, Oregon. In addition to several of our Oregon congressional colleagues, the City of Medford, the Jackson County Board of Commissioners, and Oregon Governor Kate Brown oppose this proposal.


Many Oregonians have raised legitimate questions about the expansion of casino gaming in Oregon. The original authors of the law on which the Coquille tribe bases its application have raised significant questions as well. Opposition from the state, city, and county to a casino far-removed from the Coquille ancestral lands (and their restored lands reservations) should give the agency great pause about this application.

As you consider the application before you, we request that you carefully and thoughtfully study the concerns from the local community and state and federal officials.

Sincerely,


Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress


Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress


Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress