



KATE BROWN
Governor

April 13, 2016

Stan Speaks, Northwest Regional Director
Bureau of Indian Affairs
911 NE 11th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97232-4169

Dear Director Speaks:

I write to provide my views on a pending trust application submitted by the Coquille Indian Tribe concerning a 2.42 acre tract of land in Jackson County, Oregon. The Coquille seek to have the land taken into trust to operate a Class II gaming facility for the use and benefit of the Tribe. In a May 6, 2013, letter to you, then-Oregon Governor John. A. Kitzhaber urged the Secretary of the Interior to exercise her discretion to deny the Coquille's application to take the subject land into trust for gaming purposes. I want to convey that the State of Oregon's position on this matter remains the same.

I admire and respect the Coquille Indian Tribe's dedication to serving those in need within its tribal service area. I value Oregon's government-to-government relationship with the Coquille, and I esteem the Coquille's candid and productive communications with me and with the State on these and on many other issues. I have no doubt that the Coquille would use the resources generated by the proposed Class II facility prudently and in service to those in need. Nonetheless, I do not believe that the opening of this facility would be in the best interests of the people of Oregon.

I continue to support each of Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes in establishing or maintaining a single Class III casino, and I support a policy authorizing wide latitude on the size of such casinos, as well as the types of gaming offered therein. Such ventures are an important tool for many of the tribes' economic and business development, and State support is a small step toward attempting to rectify the significant wrongs visited upon Oregon's native peoples.

However, I do not believe that an expansion in the number of casinos sited in Oregon is in the best interests of the State or her people. I know that this project is relatively modest in scale, and that it is proposed only as a Class II facility. But I believe that the State should as a matter of policy resist the building of additional casinos, because State support for even a single, modest, additional casino is likely to lead to significant efforts to expand gaming across Oregon, to the detriment of the public welfare. In essence, I believe it essential that the State "hold the line" on the number of casinos within her borders whenever possible.

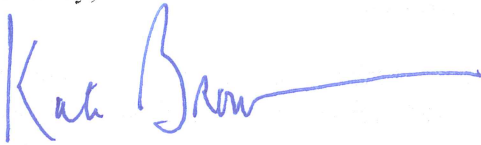


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For these reasons, I reiterate the State's request that the Secretary exercise her discretion to deny the Coquille's application to take the relevant tract of land into trust for gaming purposes.

Please let me know if I can be of further assistance or provide information with regard to this application. I have designated my General Counsel, Benjamin Souede, to be the Office of the Governor's contact on this issue. He may be reached at ben.souede@oregon.gov and at (503) 378-8636.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kate Brown". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Governor Kate Brown