



August 10, 2023

Bryan Newland  
Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240

**RE: CNIGA’s Opposition to the Coquille Indian Tribe’s Medford Project**

Dear Assistant Secretary Newland,

The purpose of the California Nations Indian Gaming Association (CNIGA) is to protect the sovereign right of California tribal governments to operate gaming on their lands. The Coquille Indian Tribe’s application to transfer fee land in Medford, Oregon into trust for gaming using the restored lands exception directly threatens those sovereign rights.

Since 2015, our member Tribes, the Karuk Tribe, Elk Valley Rancheria, and the Tolowa Dee-Ni Nation have each urged your office to reject Coquille’s position. CNIGA supports this request and asks that you work with Coquille to resubmit their application using the two-part determination process. Unlike the restored lands process the Department is currently using, the two-part determination process will allow the Department to consult with all impacted tribes, including those in California.

Thank you for your consistent support of Indian Country and we look forward to working with you to ensure that all tribes have an equitable opportunity to benefit from gaming.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Siva', written in a cursive style.

James Siva  
Chairman, CNIGA