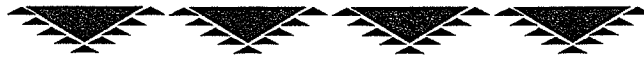


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# Karuk Tribe



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## Administrative Office

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April 14, 2016

Larry Roberts  
Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
MS-3642-MIB  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240  
lawrence.roberts@bia.gov

### VIA EMAIL AND U.S. MAIL

Re: Coquille Medford Casino

Dear Assistant Secretary Roberts:

In follow-up to our May 2013 letter to Assistant Secretary Kevin Washburn, I write to you as Chairman of the Karuk Tribal Council to express Karuk's continued opposition to the Coquille Tribe's planned casino in Medford, Oregon. While a state border separates us from Medford, these lines mean little to us because, as stated in our previous letter, the Karuk Tribe's ancestral territory extends into Jackson County in the Rogue Valley. Further, we have recently made a path toward economic sustainability via gaming and Coquille's efforts threaten to disastrously unravel this necessary development and thus obstruct our ability to provide for our tribal nation which is the second largest in California.

*Medford, Oregon is only 50 miles from Yreka, California, where we are beginning construction, this year, on a Class III gaming facility. Our casino will open in early 2017. As you know, Karuk has weathered several legal challenges to our efforts over the last several years. Throughout the planning of our new facility, we relied on federal law and the interpretations of the IGRA that existed over that period of time.*

Now, Coquille is urging your office to make a completely novel read of their restoration act, and of IGRA. They want you to decide that their federal restoration act allows them to put casinos anywhere in their "service area," meaning nearly every county on the western corridor of Southern Oregon. For established gaming facilities, this kind of saturation cuts governmental

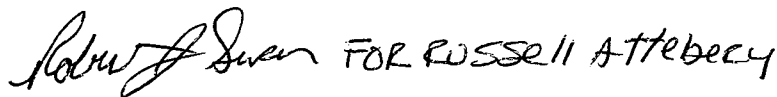
revenue in half or more. *For the Karuk Tribe, which is on the very cusp of gaming, it would utterly devastate our opportunity to gain a foothold in our own market.* Surely such a consequence is contrary to the expressed goal of IGRA which was to regulate gaming to assist the federal policy of advancing “tribal economic development, tribal self-sufficiency, and strong tribal government.” See 25 U.S. Code § 2701(4).

A race to the gaming bottom, by tribes capable of funding numerous—second, third, fourth, and potentially fifth— intra state casinos was plainly never envisioned by IGRA since such a direction would contribute to tribal economic underdevelopment, tribal debt-dependency because tribes would not be able to pay off their millions of dollars of casino debt, and would impair the strength of tribal leadership to provide for their nation.

In summary, we urge you to preserve order among Karuk and our sister tribes when it comes to gaming. We ask that we be given the same opportunity for economic development that Coquille has seen with their successful “The Mill Casino” on prime real estate on the Oregon South Coast. Lastly, as you know, tribes in Michigan and the Sacramento, California areas are also watching this matter because it promises to jump-start a gaming implosion in Indian Country if Coquille’s request, and similar ones to follow, are given the green light. We urge you to follow all of the precedent that suggests what Coquille is requesting is incorrect. We urge you to stop Coquille now so that Karuk and all of Indian Country can rely on federal law being what it is.

If Karuk can answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (530) 493-1600. Thank you for considering these difficult issues.

Respectfully,



FOR RUSSELL ATTEBERY

Chairman Russell Attebery  
Karuk Tribal Council

cc:

Paula Hart, Esq., U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Indian Gaming  
Eric Shepard, Esq., U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of the Solicitor  
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Regional Director Stanley Speaks, Bureau of Indian Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior