



M. JODI RELL
GOVERNOR

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT
06106

February 7, 2005

President George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

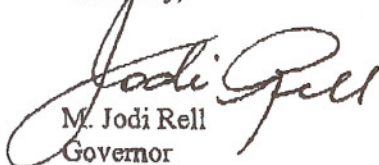
Dear President Bush:

I write today regarding the vacancy created at the Bureau of Indian Affairs by the resignation of Mr. David Anderson from his position as Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs. As you may be aware, Indian recognition, and the gaming rights that accompany it, is an issue that is of the utmost importance to the state of Connecticut.

Historically, the Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs has been appointed partially based upon his or her familiar, contractual, or financial ties to Indian Country. In an era prior to the passage of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, these appointments appropriately reflected the fiduciary relationship between the federal government and Indian tribes. However, the phenomenon of Indian gaming has changed this and the role of the Bureau of Indian Affairs as reflected in its director must change as well.

The Secretary of Indian Affairs should be a fair administrator of Indian policy, rather than an advocate. While the state maintains strong relationships with its existing Indian tribes, the changing dynamic of state-tribal relations caused by the "rush to recognition" and a heightened desire to develop casinos, may adversely affect the quality of life of many Connecticut's residents. Indeed the state and most of our towns in the western and eastern parts of the state are actively fighting all pending petitions for tribal recognition in the state. Therefore, as you consider the appointment of Mr. Anderson's successor, I respectfully request that you appoint someone who appreciates the rights and needs of states as they relate to tribal recognition issues.

Sincerely,


M. Jodi Rell
Governor