

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

November 3, 2009

The Honorable Ken Salazar  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20241

Dear Secretary Salazar:

It has come to our attention that the Department of Interior is currently reviewing its administrative policies relating to federal acquisition of lands taken into trust for Indian gaming purposes. We are writing to express our concerns with existing Department policies that allows Tribes to acquire lands for gaming purposes outside their ancestral territory.

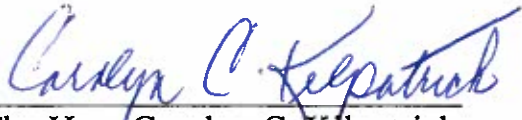
In recent years, there has been a significant increase in the number of Tribes seeking to acquire lands to build off-reservation casinos. Many of these applications are from Tribes seeking lands that are far from their existing reservations and outside their ancestral and historical territory. We believe this is contrary to an underlying purpose of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA), which was designed to encourage reservation-based economic development and the creation of local jobs for tribal communities. We understand that a large number of Indian Tribes from across the country share this view and have written you expressing their concern on this issue.

The Department's current interpretation of IGRA seems to allow this type of activity to occur. Thus, we strongly encourage you to review these policies and regulations in order to bring a more reasonable approach to federal land acquisition for Indian gaming purposes.

We thank you for your consideration of these requests and look forward to working with you on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Secretary Salazar  
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The Hon. Carolyn C. Kilpatrick



The Hon. Kevin McCarthy



The Hon. Shelley Berkley



The Hon. Mike Rogers (MI)



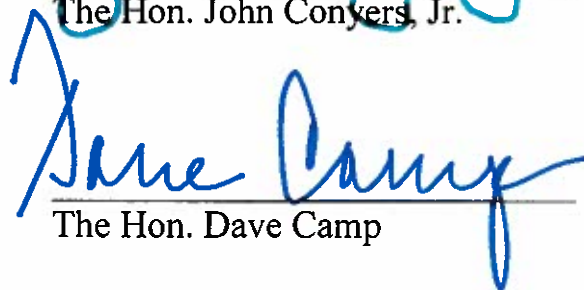
The Hon. Mark H. Schauer



The Hon. John Conyers, Jr.



The Hon. Lynn Woolsey



The Hon. Dave Camp



The Hon. Joe Courtney



The Hon. Joe Baca



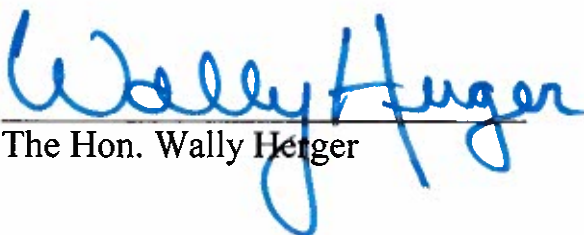
The Hon. Patrick Kennedy



The Hon. Darrell E. Issa



The Hon. Jerry Lewis



The Hon. Wally Herger

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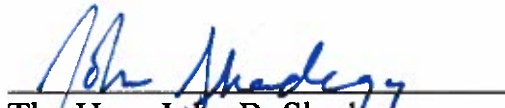
  
The Hon. Bob Goodlatte

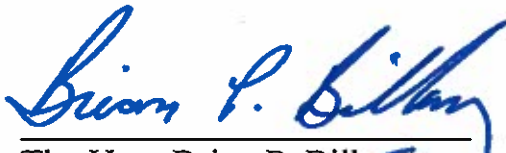
  
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The Hon. Ken Christ

  
The Hon. Walter B. Jones

**LETTER TO THE HONORABLE KEN SALAZAR  
SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
NOVEMBER 3, 2009  
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The Hon. Joe Courtney  
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