

TRENT FRANKS
ARIZONA

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
RANKING MEMBER,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMERCIAL AND
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CONSTITUTION

ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATION



Congress of the United States
Washington, DC

2436 RAYBURN BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4576

7121 W. BELL ROAD, SUITE 200
GLENDALE, AZ 85309
(623) 778-7911

www.house.gov/franks

April 8, 2010

The Honorable Robert Burns, President
Arizona State Senate
1700 W. Washington Street
Room 204
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Senator Burns,

We write to you regarding the right of the City of Glendale to annex a parcel of land within its borders which is otherwise slated to be developed into a casino. This parcel is a 134-acre site in a highly developed commercial area of Glendale. Importantly, it is located directly across the street from Raymond S. Kellis High School, a clearly inappropriate place for a casino.

Glendale is in immediate danger of having this casino developed there without its consent. However, due to a deficiency in the law, Glendale is powerless to stop the development. Glendale needs the Arizona Legislature to correct that deficiency.

The fix is House Bill 2297. The Arizona House of Representatives has already done its part and has passed the bill. Now, we ask you to give the Arizona State Senate the opportunity to do the same.

It would pervert the intentions of the Founders for the federal government to become a vehicle for forcing gambling on a local community. This should be a matter of state and local control, but it requires the local government to be empowered to give a local response. The Arizona Legislature is the only defense standing between Glendale and this federal intrusion of gambling interests into its community and the destructive footprint a casino leaves.

Numerous studies have shown that a casino encourages crime, prostitution, and vagrancy in the surrounding areas. A casino siphons monies away from local businesses and it financially victimizes those who cannot control gambling addictions. It is patently wrong to force this fate on a local community. But that is exactly what will happen if you do not act.

Unless House Bill 2297 is passed, a casino will soon scar the landscape of Glendale's family-friendly community. It will leave a burden that generations of Westside citizens will have to bear, and it will become a precedent for other casinos to use as a pry bar into our local communities. It will be remembered as the breaking point where Arizona lost its hope of not becoming Nevada.

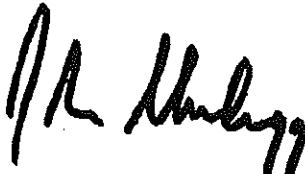
This is not what we want for future generations. And you don't want this either, Bob. As a stalwart, pro-family, anti-crime presence in the Arizona Senate for the past eight years, you have honorably worked to create a legacy of integrity and courage. Please do not let this casino mar that noble legacy.

Glendale does not want a casino on a property that lies within its borders and that will draw upon its community resources. And Glendale should not have a casino foisted upon it. Nor should any other Arizona city.

Bob, there is a point in the life of every problem when it is big enough to be seen, but still small enough to be solved. This is that point for our towns and cities to be able to defend themselves from casinos elbowing their way into their communities. We implore you to put House Bill 2297 to a vote. If this bill dies, the casino will very likely be built, and a window for Arizona will close forever. Your action now is critical.

We thank you for your consideration and your swift action.

Most sincerely,



JOHN SHADEGG
United States Congress



TRENT FRANKS
United States Congress