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Congress of the United States

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June 25, 2009

The Honorable Ken Salazar
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Secretary,

We strongly urge you to reject the recommendation of the Western Regional Office of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, that 134 acres in the center of Glendale, Arizona be taken into trust for the Tohono O'odham Nation for the purpose of building a large casino.

Contrary to the Tohono O'odham Nation's assertion of a "mandatory" land acquisition process, we believe that a discretionary assessment of the impact a large casino will have on the City of Glendale is the responsible and correct course of action by your office.

The proposed land is considered an "off-reservation" site, outside of the Tohono O'odham Nation's aboriginal lands, therefore precluding all Indian gaming, pursuant to Arizona Proposition 201 and 202 of 2002. Additionally, the proposed land is surrounded by the City of Glendale and is therefore within the exterior boundaries of the City. It was not the intent of the Gila Bend Indian Reservation Lands Replacement Act of 1986 to have a large gaming complex placed in the middle of an urban area such as Glendale.

We must preserve the balance between economic opportunity for Arizona Tribes, and the essence of local communities. The Tohono O'odham Nation's casino proposal would completely destroy this balance.

We ask that you reject the Tohono O'odham Nation's request that the Department of the Interior acquire land in trust as an Indian reservation in Glendale, Arizona and look forward to your response.

Most sincerely,