



CALIFORNIA TRIBAL
BUSINESS ALLIANCE

May 8, 2006

Honorable Joe Coto
California State Assembly
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Assembly Member Coto:

The California Tribal Business Alliance (CTBA) is pleased to support your AB 2641, which provides for consultation with the descendants of California Indians whose graves are discovered during construction activities.

This legislation is needed to address the situations where a number of graves are discovered. Clearly, multiple graves constitute an intentional burial ground, yet state law does not extend the same protections to Indian burial grounds as that enjoyed by non-Indian cemeteries.

While AB 2641 does not include Native American burials in the definition of a cemetery, its minimal requirement to consult with descendants will provide additional measures of respect and dignity to the ultimate disposition of the remains.

The CTBA's six charter members are the **Pala Band of Mission Indians**, the **Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians**, the **Pauma Band of Luiseño Indians**, the **Rumsey Band of Wintun Indians**, the **United Auburn Indian Community**, and the **Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians**.

If you have any questions on our position, please contact Alison Harvey, Executive Director, at (916) 244-8561 or David Quintana, Director of Political Affairs, at (619) 571-5559.

Sincerely,

Paula Lorenzo
Chairwoman, CTBA Board of Directors



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