



CALIFORNIA TRIBAL
BUSINESS ALLIANCE

June 14, 2006

Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Constitution Avenue and 2nd Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

On behalf of the California Tribal Business Alliance I am writing to express our opposition to your Senate Bill 113, which would rescind the designation of reservation land held by the Lytton Band of Pomo Indians as eligible for tribal government gaming.

The California Tribal Business Alliance vigorously opposes off-reservation gaming. We are the only tribal gaming group in California to take this unequivocal position. While this position puts us at odds with some other California tribes, we believe that off-reservation gaming deals erode tribal sovereignty and are one of the biggest potential threats to the public's long-term goodwill towards tribal gaming.

It may be inviting, therefore, to lump Lytton Band's Casino San Pablo in with other proposals as "reservation shopping" or off-reservation gaming. However, the issue is not that simple. The circumstances of the Lytton Tribe are not the same as any other California tribe engaged in "reservation shopping." This is not a case of off-reservation gaming because the casino is on reservation land eligible for gaming. It was made so by an act of Congress in 2000, and whether or not you agree with that action, it was a commitment made by Congress to the Lytton Band. It was a promise made to the tribe, and it is a promise that must be kept. Your bill brings to mind the long history of unfilled promises and land seizures from Indian tribes in the United States.

The practical effect of your legislation is to close an operating casino in the City of San Pablo. The city vigorously supports having the facility, and as a low-income community it particularly benefits from the jobs and revenue the casino provides. Based on the congressional act, the Lytton Band has invested substantial funds in its San Pablo facility. This casino is the tribe's only source of revenue for the benefit of its 280 members. Furthermore, dire predictions of traffic gridlock and crime have not materialized.



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The Lytton Band has offered statutory language to ensure that the casino will be limited in size and type of operation. This should assuage your stated concerns with traffic and crime.

For the stated reasons, we must respectfully oppose S. 113.

The six members of the California Tribal Business Alliance 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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paula Lorenzo".

Paula Lorenzo, Chairwoman
California Tribal Business Alliance Board of Directors