



CALIFORNIA TRIBAL  
BUSINESS ALLIANCE

March 9, 2006

Rep. Richard Pombo, Chairman  
House Resources Committee  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Pombo:

I am pleased to write on behalf of the California Tribal Business Alliance to express our support for your H.R. 4893, which would limit the circumstances under which tribes can acquire lands for gaming.

Your bill is consistent with the CTBA's policy, adopted last year, to oppose gaming on newly acquired tribal land that is outside a tribe's traditional homeland or beyond where it historically exercised governmental authority.

We remain deeply concerned about speculators who seek to exploit tribes in order to locate casinos in profitable market areas, locations where they would not otherwise be entitled to operate. This practice is a major threat to the public's long-term goodwill toward Indian gaming and a distraction to tribes whose time and energy would be better spent building appropriate economic development.

When a tribe moves from where it traditionally exercised government authority, it abandons its own sovereignty and intrudes on that of another tribe.

The California Tribal Business Alliance 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.

We appreciate this opportunity to comment on H.R. 4893.

Sincerely,

Paula Lorenzo, Chairwoman  
California Tribal Business Alliance





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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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JUNE 22, 2005  
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## **California Tribal Business Alliance Opposes Gaming on Newly Acquired Tribal Land Outside a Tribe's Traditional Homeland**

### Statement by the California Tribal Business Alliance

The members of the California Tribal Business Alliance oppose the erosion of tribal governmental jurisdiction by off-reservation casino deals in which non-Indian developers encourage California tribes to claim territorial rights in more marketable locations outside their traditional homelands.

The recognized territory of a tribe has historical and cultural significance, and it is a key element in the legal basis for a tribe's sovereign authority over its land and people. Tribes that abandon that jurisdictional foundation are giving up an essential ingredient of sovereignty – territoriality.

Speculators who have only recently discovered that there are Indians in California, the nation's best casino market, propose these fanciful deals. They buy or option land in a profitable market and then shop for a tribe to move there. A wandering tribe is no longer a government; it becomes a business. Businesses are organized to make money, and they come and go. But governments must endure and fulfill a broader purpose of meeting the needs of their people through the generations.

If some tribes are willing to voluntarily leave behind their traditional homelands, it will become more difficult to defend tribes against being forced from their lands against their will.

Furthermore, when these tribes move, they end up in another tribe's homeland, compromising that tribe's sovereign authority and cultural identity.

In addition to damaging the sovereignty of all tribal governments, the practice of investors encouraging tribes to look outside their historical lands for placement of casinos is one of the biggest potential threats to the public's long-term goodwill towards tribal gaming.

This goodwill was exemplified by the strong votes in favor of Propositions 5 and 1A,



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which granted exclusive rights for casino gaming to California tribes, and more recently, against Proposition 68. The continuation of this franchise ultimately depends on retaining support from the voting public.

These proposals have negligible chance of success, yet they are a distraction for the public as well as tribes, whose time could be spent building appropriate economic development within their historic jurisdictions to benefit their tribal members.

These schemes are not contemplated by federal law, and they are unfair to the California tribes who have stayed and invested, at some disadvantage, in businesses on their own lands, lands that also may not be situated in the most profitable markets.

The California Tribal Business Alliance calls for the State of California to adopt a three point policy to address this issue:

- 1) Oppose the United States taking any future land into trust for a tribe which is not within the tribe's traditional homeland and over which the tribe did not historically exercise governmental authority.
- 2) Use the carryover in the Special Distribution Fund, which is now \$88 million, to match any portion of the \$1.1 million each non-gaming tribe now receives from the Revenue Sharing Trust Fund that the tribe uses for the capital costs of non-gaming tribal government economic development projects.
- 3) Provide incentives to create tribal partnerships between federally-recognized gaming and non-gaming tribes in California to utilize their existing Indian lands for joint gaming project development.

(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**.)

CTBA was formed to act in partnership with federal, state and local governments, and with business, community, and civic organizations across California. Its members actively seek productive alliances that are based on mutual respect and cooperation to protect and advance their status as sovereign nations.)

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