



U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-0552

August 30, 2005

The Honorable Gail Norton  
Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C St, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Norton:

On several occasions I have expressed my strong opposition to a proposed casino development by the Jamul Indian Village (Tribe) in San Diego County, California. As you are aware, this Tribe has been attempting to place into trust adjacent land to the reservation in an effort to build parking and other infrastructure that would facilitate the operation of a large hotel and casino. This effort has been publicly opposed not only by me, but also by the local residents of Jamul, the County of San Diego and Governor Schwarzenegger. As a result, the Tribe has been unsuccessful in placing this additional land into trust.

The Tribe has now indicated that it intends to build the entire proposed gaming operation on their existing reservation. With only four acres available to construction, this action would require a 30-story facility, encompassing a casino, hotel and garage and creating the largest building outside of downtown San Diego. Madame Secretary, Jamul is a community of less than 10,000 residents and does not possess the proper resources or infrastructure to properly facilitate the thousands of patrons this casino will serve. In fact, the only access to the proposed gaming site is a single entrance on a winding two-lane road that has very limited passing lanes and only two traffic lights. These conditions increase the probability of vehicular and pedestrian accidents while, at the same time, limiting the ability of emergency personnel to respond to critical situations.

Though I remain committed to working with the Tribe and its leaders on areas of mutual concern such as tribal sovereignty, improved living conditions and unemployment, as a matter of public safety I cannot support the Tribe's effort in this endeavor. The adverse impact this facility would have on the transportation, law enforcement and emergency response infrastructure of this rural community would be significant and can only be characterized as irresponsible. I am requesting that your office review this situation from a safety standpoint and enforce any federal jurisdiction available to prohibit the construction of this facility. For your review, I have enclosed a story from the *San Diego Union Tribune* on this important issue.

Thank you in advance for your assistance. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me directly, or have your staff contact Michael Harrison in my office at (202) 225-5672.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Duncan Hunter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Duncan Hunter  
Member of Congress

DH/mrh  
Enclosure

Cc: House Resources Chairman, Congressman Richard Pombo  
Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger  
San Diego County Supervisor Dianne Jacob