

42507 W. Peters & Nall Road
Maricopa, AZ 85238
Ph: (520) 568-1021
Fax: (520) 568-1001
Clarissa.Mike@akchin.nsn.us



Ak-Chin Indian Community Council

Fax

To: Mayor Elaine Scruggs From: Clarissa Mike, Council Secretary

Fax: 623-937-2764 Pages: 3

Date: 06/04/09

Re: The ACIC's Opposition to the TO CC:
Nation's Land into Trust Proposal for an
Off-reservation Casino in Glendale,
Arizona

Urgent For Review Please Comment Please Reply For Your File

● Comments:

AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY

Community Government

42507 W. Peters & Nail Road • Maricopa, Arizona 85238 • Telephone: (520) 568-1000 • Fax: (520) 568-1001



June 4, 2009

Ms. Paula Hart
Office of Indian Gaming
Bureau of Indian Affairs
United States Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: The Ak-Chin Indian Community's Opposition to the Tohono O'odham Nation's Land into Trust Proposal for an Off-reservation Casino in Glendale, Arizona

Sent via Fax to 202-501-1516 and U.S. Mail

Dear Ms. Hart:

On behalf of the Ak-Chin Indian Community ("Ak-Chin"), I am writing to inform you, and the Department of Interior, that the Community is vehemently opposed to the Tohono O'odham Nation's land into trust proposal for an off-reservation casino to be located in Glendale, Arizona.

The Ak-Chin Indian Reservation was established in 1912 and comprised almost 48,000 acres. A few months later, over *half* of our Reservation was seized by the federal government, and reduced to its present day size of around 22,000 acres. We have approximately 800 members, and are a small, rural farming village. We are located about 35 miles southeast of Phoenix, Arizona.

As you know, Glendale, Arizona is over 150 miles from Tohono O'odham's headquarters in southern Arizona (Sells). As you also know, the Glendale casino site, in central Arizona, is *not* part of the Tohono O'odham's reservation. In addition to being a far-flung casino proposal, the land into trust casino site will not house any tribal members. Furthermore, Tohono O'odham members working at the casino will have to commute over 100 miles each way to get to the casino. Hence, the current proposal is for an off-reservation gaming site and should be rejected.

The Ak-Chin casino is also located about 45 southeast from the proposed Glendale casino. Our tribal government casino is the foremost economic development resource which provides for our tribal government, and programs and services for tribal members. Thus, Tohono O'odham's proposed casino would impose significant negative impacts on our tribe and tribal members.

From its inception, Indian gaming as permitted in Arizona was formulated so as to carefully balance the competition among the various gaming tribes in order for all such

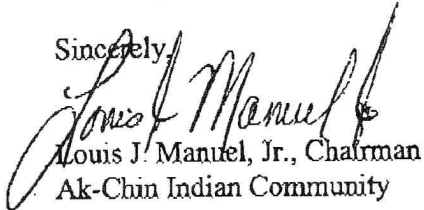
tribes to continuously operate profitable gaming enterprises. In 2002, Arizona voters approved Proposition 202, which authorized limited and regulated gaming on then existing Indian reservation lands. Arizona voters also rejected Proposition 201 which would have allowed for off-reservation gaming.

Presently, Tohono O'odham has three casinos on its reservation in Pima County. In 2003, Tohono O'odham purchased land outside their reservation as part of a plan to open a \$500 million casino in Maricopa County, surrounded by the City of Glendale, and outside their aboriginal lands.

Ak-Chin has one casino on its reservation. We compete with numerous nearby tribal casinos including, Gila River's three casinos, Salt River's two casinos, and Fort McDowell's one casino. Tohono O'odham's proposed off-reservation next to Glendale casino would seriously upset the delicate competitive balance among tribes; generally reflect negatively on Indian gaming in Arizona; and significantly reduce Ak-Chin's gaming revenues which fund valuable services and programs for our tribal government and members. Therefore, in order to protect the best interests of the Ak-Chin Indian Community and its members, the Community Council strongly opposes Tohono O'odham's land into trust proposal for an off-reservation casino next to Glendale, Arizona. (See attached Resolution).

We appreciate your consideration, and look forward to public hearings on this issue. If you have any questions, please contact me at 520-568-1032.

Sincerely,



Louis J. Manutel, Jr., Chairman
Ak-Chin Indian Community

cc: Secretary Ken Salazar
Asst. Secretary John Echohawk
WRO, Allen Anspach
Sen. John McCain
Sen. Jon Kyl
Sen. Byron Dorgan
Rep. Raul Grijalva
Rep. Trent Franks
Rep. John Shadegg
Rep. Ed Pastor
Rep. Jeff Flake
Rep. Harry Mitchell
Rep. Gabrielle Giffords
Rep. Ann Kirkpatrick
Gov. Jan Brewer
Mayor Elaine Scruggs