

**STOP THE CASINO 101 COALITION**  
*The Voice of the People*

979 Golf Course Drive, No. 170  
Rohnert Park, CA 94928  
www.stopthecasino101.com

July 26, 2011

Honorable Lynn Woolsey  
United States Representative  
2263 Rayburn Building  
Washington, DC 20515

re: **Land into Trust Reform: Request for Field Hearings in California**

Dear Representative Woolsey:

On behalf of Stop the Casino 101 Coalition of California, we are writing to request you to encourage the Honorable Don Young, Chairman of the subcommittee on Indian and Native Alaskan Affairs, to hold field hearings in California.

The field hearings must address the process of transferring fee lands into trust. As you may know, California has 137 applications currently on file at the Pacific Regional Office of the Bureau of Indian Affairs encompassing more than 15,000 acres of land. At the July 12<sup>th</sup> hearing in Washington, D.C. on HR 1234 and HR 1291 discussing the merits of a "Clean Carcieri Fix", Chairman Young stated he was considering field hearings. It became evident after testimony that there are many unintended consequences to the current fee to trust system.

In our community, we have one tribal casino and two tribes which plan to open casinos in urban areas. In addition, three tribes have acquired close to 1,000 acres of vacant land. All three have the potential to open new casinos on these lands. The newly-proposed casino projects and land parcels are all on or near Highway 101, the main route to this area from the lucrative San Francisco Bay market.

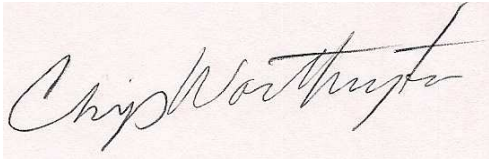
California is significantly affected by the fee to trust process. Taking land out of the authority of the state affects the management of shared resources for all citizens. It complicates the ability of law enforcement to ensure the safety of both the tribal and non-tribal public. It has a significant fiscal impact on local and state budgets; Sonoma County recently lost \$1 million a year in property tax revenue when land was placed into trust for

the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria. A newly emerging impact is the unfair competition to the business community that has a rippling effect on revenue dollars to local and state budgets.

We request that you send a letter to Chairman Don Young, inviting him to hold two Field Hearings in California, one in Southern and one in Northern California, so that all affected stakeholders are given an opportunity to present the many unintentional consequences of the current land into trust system. We have suggestions that will enhance and make more suitable a process that currently lacks objective standards, fairness and transparency.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Chip Worthington", on a light-colored rectangular background.

Pastor Chip Worthington  
Founder, Stop the Casino 101 Coalition  
Mail to: 4695 Snyder Lane  
Rohnert Park, CA 94928  
Telephone: 707-477-2589 (Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)

HGW/wjg  
cc: Board of Supervisors, County of Sonoma

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If you have trouble with this fax, please call 707-588-9926

**DATE:** July 26, 2011

**TO:** The Honorable Lynn Woolsey, U.S. House of Representatives

**FROM:** Pastor Chip Worthington  
Phone: 707-477-2589 (Monday – Friday 9 am to 5 pm)  
Email: [chip@stopthecasino101.com](mailto:chip@stopthecasino101.com)

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