DIANNE JACOB

CHAIRWOMAN
SUPERVISOR, SECOND DISTRICT
SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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December 9, 2009

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

As a member of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors with eleven Indian reservations in my Supervisorial District, I am writing in regards to the current discussions and bill hearings taking place in the United States Senate and House of Representatives that could potentially clarify the Secretary of the Interior's authority to take land into trust for Indian Tribes.

I urge you to strongly advocate for a full Senate debate regarding any bills pertaining to the fee to trust process or any of the broader policy issues stemming from the Supreme Court's recent *Carcieri* decision. There is a unique opportunity to address some of the systematic flaws that are associated with the fee to trust process. Among other concerns, there is a current lack of clearly defined standards for trust land acquisitions. Furthermore, the lack of any notification requirements often keeps local governments and agencies in the dark and left with little time to work with a tribal government to discuss and mitigate possible impacts of a proposed trust application.

The impacts of tribal trust land acquisitions have far reaching impacts to neighboring communities, agencies, and local governments. In order to address these impacts, intergovernmental agreements should be required between tribes and local governments to require mitigation for adverse impacts such as loss of local property tax, environmental impacts, and impacts from future development that takes place on land included in trust acquisitions.

I have worked hard to establish strong working relationships with tribal governments in my district. Our Federal representatives now have an opportunity to advance a broad solution regarding the fee-to-trust process that fairly balances the roles of local and tribal governments.

Again, thank you in advance for consideration in this matter. If I can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact me at (619) 531-5522.

Sincerely,

DIANNE JACOB
Chairwoman

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