

Mayor:
Paul Cummings

Councilors:
Andrea Klaas
Carrie Nelson
Linda Rouches
Chuck Haynie
Paul Thompson
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February 13, 2003

Governor Ted Kulongoski
254 State Capitol
Salem, OR 97310-0370

RE: Warm Springs Indian Gaming Casino

Dear Governor Kulongoski:

On May 7, 2002, the City of Hood River sent Governor Kitzhaber a letter stating our official position on developing a casino in Cascade Locks. We would like to reiterate that position for you so there is no misunderstanding as to where we stand on this very important issue.

Since November of 1998, the Hood River City Council has vehemently opposed any and all efforts to siting a gaming casino in or adjacent to the City of Hood River. The City has filed a brief with the Secretary of the Interior arguing: 1. that under the terms of the Indian Gaming Act a casino cannot legally be built on the Confederated Tribe's Trust land near Hood River; 2. that the Tribe's recent land purchase cannot be entered into Trust status to further support a gambling venture; and 3. that the development is afoul both the letter and intent of the National Scenic Act.

In October, 2001, the Council reaffirmed its opposition to a casino on the east side of Hood River and has done, and will continue to do everything legally and politically possible to stop such development.

Nonetheless, the City Council recognizes the legitimate interests of the City of Cascade Locks as it addresses its own unemployment and economic development issues. A casino facility could be constructed there within an urban boundary and avoid direct conflict with the National Scenic Act. There are many practical and esthetic reasons to favor siting a Gorge casino in Cascade Locks over the Trust land near Hood River.

Therefore, recognizing that the legal and political process that sites Indian gaming facilities may find the law's application contrary to our brief, the Hood River City Council has formally adopted the policy that if an Indian casino is to be built in the Columbia River Gorge region, it should be sited in Cascade Locks.

Sincerely,

Paul G. Cummings, Mayor

PGC/tp

N:Letters/2-13 Casino