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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0502

COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES
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SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE
CLIMATE CRISIS

April 25, 2022

The Honorable Deb Haaland
Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Haaland:

I am writing to express my opposition to the Koi Nation's application to acquire 68 acres of land into trust for a casino in Sonoma County in the Second District of California. While I remain a champion for tribal interests, I would like to bring to your attention serious concerns raised by both the tribes with ancestral ties to the land and the neighboring constituents that render the proposed plans inappropriate for the area.

Federal law requires that a restored tribe have a "significant historical connection" to the land where it proposes to game, but the land in question is over 50 miles from the Koi Nation's ancestral land in the Lower Lake area of Lake County. The Koi Nation also lacks evidence of a historical connection such as ancestral villages, burial sites, or subsistence use of the land. Further, the tribes that *are* indigenous to Sonoma County including the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria, Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians, Cloverdale Rancheria, Kashia Band of Pomo Indians of the Stewarts Point Rancheria, and Lytton Rancheria oppose both the proposed project and the Koi Nation's ancestral claims to the land. The Sonoma County Board of Supervisors also shares these concerns and passed a resolution opposing the establishment of this casino within the County.

In addition, I have heard from constituents in the area about concerns over the intended use of the land for a casino. The proposed project would be located in a residential area with elementary schools, parks and religious centers in close proximity. The anticipated traffic from a casino could pose a danger to these residents and this would be exasperated when considering wildfire evacuation routes and the thousands of vehicles that could be added to the road from the project.

Thank you for your full, fair and serious consideration of my request for you to reject the Koi Nation's application to acquire this land in trust and the proposed casino. Should you have any

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questions about this request please contact Casey MacLean on my staff at Casey.MacLean@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jared Huffman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

JARED HUFFMAN
Member of Congress