

California State Senate

SENATOR MIKE MCGUIRE

MAJORITY LEADER

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA'S SECOND SENATE DISTRICT



December 15, 2023

The Honorable Deb Haaland
Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington DC 20240

Dear Secretary Haaland:

I am writing to express my concern about the Koi Nation of Northern California's application to acquire 68 acres of land and place the property into trust in Windsor, California. The focus of this proposed development project is a gaming casino and resort.

In an unprecedented move, five federally-recognized Sonoma County based tribes (Cloverdale Rancheria, Dry Creek Rancheria, Lytton Rancheria, Stewart's Point Rancheria, and the Federated Indians of the Graton Rancheria) have come out in opposition to the proposal as well as to the Koi Nation's ancestral claims to the acquired land.

The Koi Nation has ancestral territory within the geographic boundaries of Lake County, California, over 50 miles from the land in question. It does not appear that the location in their Windsor proposal satisfies the federal legal requirement of having a "significant historical connection" to ancestral lands, nor does it have evidence of cultural ties such as villages, burial sites, or subsistence use.

Finally, the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors and the Windsor Town Council have also taken action and opposed to the project.

With respect, I encourage you to oppose this proposal. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to us at 707-576-2771.

Thank you for your consideration of this correspondence.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Mike McGuire".

MIKE MCGUIRE
Senator