



Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Oregon
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January 16, 2023

Bryan Mercier
Northwest Regional Director
Bureau of Indian Affairs, Northwest Region
911 Northeast 11th Avenue
Portland, OR 97232-4169

Re: DEIS Comments, Coquille Indian Tribe Fee-To-Trust and Gaming Facility Project

Dear Mr. Mercier:

On behalf of the Warm Springs Tribal Council, I am writing to express our Tribe's support for the Coquille Tribe's pending application to take land into trust in Medford, Oregon, to develop a Class II gaming facility. As a Tribe that operates a Class II gaming facility (the Plateau Travel Plaza in Madras, Oregon) apart from our Class III casino (Indian Head Casino in Warm Springs, Oregon) our experience is that Class II gaming provides a productive economic development opportunity, especially since Class II gaming is subject only to Tribal and National Indian Gaming Commission regulation and is not subject to State of Oregon policy or regulation regarding Indian gaming. We furthermore understand that the project's location in Jackson County is consistent with the Coquille Restoration Act (P.L. 101-42) and federal Indian gaming law regarding the geographic scope of "restored lands" eligible to be taken into trust for gaming.

In summary, we support the Coquille Tribe's application because it is consistent with applicable federal law, will provide positive economic development opportunity and will further assist the Coquille Tribe efforts to achieve self-sufficiency. Accordingly, we urge you to approve the Coquille Tribe's pending application.

Thank you for your consideration of our views on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Jonathan W. Smith, Sr.
Chairman
for Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs
Reservation of Oregon

cc: Chair Brenda Meade
Coquille Tribal Council

