



UPDATE

One Nation United

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Dear ONU Members, Friends, and
Elected Officials,

"WINDS OF CHANGE" BLOWING ACROSS AMERICA

Hello again and thank you for supporting One Nation United's efforts to expose the civil, jurisdictional, and constitutional threats now facing Indians and non-Indians alike as a result of America's misguided federal policies -- all greatly exacerbated by the hundreds of millions in tax-exempt gambling profits being donated by tribes to our elected officials on the federal, state, and local levels. Sadly, America's political system is now "For Sale" to the highest bidder. Our voices are too often drowned out by millions of dollars in tax-free tribal casino money. But progress is being made!

This Newsletter is part of our continuing effort to keep you informed about these truly important issues and to alert you as to what YOU can do about them.

As you know, we're working hard to have Congress to face up to these growing problems and pass necessary legislation to comprehensively reform the system. Again this year, we've sent teams of volunteer lobbyists repeatedly to Washington, DC -- carrying your message to elected officials, federal agency leaders, Capitol Hill staff, the White House, and congressional leaders on both sides of the aisle.

Friends like you are WHY we are fighting this fierce battle in the political trenches. It's an honor to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with you in defense of the future of America. Your steadfast moral and financial support is what has enabled us to carry out this critical work for the cause of free enterprise, local control, and private property rights. But we urgently need your help once again! You need ONU and we need you to send in

your most generous possible donation now. Our cause is worthy and the need is great.

As a result of America's heroic struggle to win independence, our Founding Fathers realized that private property was so inextricably linked to freedom that they wrote its protection into the Constitution. Property rights form the heart of individual freedom and are the very foundation for all other civil rights guaranteed to U.S. citizens by that document. Both are designed to protect the weak from the strong.

Without the freedom to acquire and possess property, all other constitutional rights are meaningless. How much individual liberty do you really have if your investment in private property is not protected from the whims of government? Without such protection, the line between what belongs to you, what belongs to your neighbor, and what belongs to government blurs hopelessly -- usually according to the whims of the latter.

So please be generous! Your gift will be used EFFECTIVELY. There is so much more we can and will do if we have the necessary financial resources. Whatever you can contribute will bring us that much closer to VICTORY! Reforms are within our reach...

GET EDUCATED. STAY INFORMED. BE INVOLVED.

Please use the enclosed envelope and push your much needed contribution back to ONU today. We need funding for telephone, postage, printing, lobbying costs, and travel costs for important events. ONU is hosting in the crucial months ahead, and to conduct research to provide support to lawyers working on vital litigation.

Continued on page 2

PRISONERS OF CURRENT FEDERAL INDIAN POLICY



This cartoon originally addressed detainees at Guantanamo. Our sincere thanks to cartoonist Steve Greenberg for giving One Nation United permission to use his original work (steve@greenberg-art.com)

The Western States Sheriffs' Association recently asked us to join a possible "civil action" against the U.S. Interior Department/BIA for violating State's rights with respect to a number of economic development proposals approved in various states. These actions have allowed tribes to expand to off-reservation locations by extending their "sovereignty" to non-reservation lands. We need input from other groups across the country and wish to hear from other public or private organizations who would consider joining with One Nation United (including county governments, state sheriffs' associations, and maybe the National Sheriffs' Association) in filing this legal action? Please let us hear from you if your group is interested in joining this litigation?

In late August, ONU will be co-hosting a "**Tribal Gambling Summit**" to bring together concerned community leaders and elected officials from across California and the western region to discuss federal lobbying strategies for dealing with local impacts. We also need financial help for the printing of initiative petitions for a "first-in-the-nation" moratorium on new tribal casinos in California. This will cost money. That's why we're asking you to make your most generous contribution to One Nation United immediately.

****ONU LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE SET FOR NOV. 11-12****

We will again host a Leadership Conference in Washington, DC, Nov. 11-12. On our agenda will be the Tribal Loophole in campaign finance, plus, the EPA's "Treatment As States" policy and, of course, private property rights and the free enterprise system as they relate to reform of Federal Indian Policy and the fee-to-trust process. **For the second time, we're extremely honored to have Mr. Tom Gede, Executive Director of the Conference of Western Attorneys General (CWAG), as our conference moderator.**

This Conference will provide attendees with the tools and motivation needed to effectively capitalize on the momentum we've been building so effectively across America. Our goal is to advance the vision and mission of ONU by bringing together key leaders to focus on policy and outreach strategies to enhance our legislative, grassroots, and media advocacy capabilities in collaboration with likeminded partner groups.

ONU will need funding to pay necessary costs for the expenses of this important event. Please help! Our nationwide "networking" efforts are paying off! Thanks to your letters, your faxes, your phone calls, and your email messages, Congress is finally waking up to the TRUTH about our issues. We

must keep the momentum going. The winds of change are blowing--even the U.S. Supreme Court has been ruling more often in our favor! Last year, the 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals dismissed the Cayuga land claim in New York State, to which the Seneca-Cayugas along with the Cayuga Nation were parties. The Supreme Court recently refused to hear the Tribes' appeal. Hooray!!

Please consider increasing your level of financial support as we strive to tackle the growing needs of this movement across America. You're an invaluable part of our grassroots network of dedicated individuals, businesses large and small, community and trade groups, elected leaders, and local governments. If you have **not joined us yet, please do so now** at the financial level that's comfortable for you or your company/organization.

Without a doubt, the tribes and their lawyers will continue playing hardball and overreaching. But make no mistake; ONU is committed to seeing our cause through to the day when "Equality under the Law" is a reality so that we finally have a level playing field. **It's our own federal government creating this needless divisiveness and conflict** between tribes and their neighbors by continuing to encourage so many unfair, race-based policies that divide rather than unite us as American citizens and business owners.

Our issues are nonpartisan-- BOTH major parties have been feeding off of tribal gambling profits -- with the result that Jack Abramoff is just the 'tip of the iceberg' in terms of the massive corruption in our Nation's Capitol. Indian tribes have contributed hundreds of millions to 200+ Senators and Congressional Representatives over the past few years.

After two years of investigating Jack Abramoff's complex web of fraud, deceit, and greed, the Senate Indian Affairs Committee released a 373-page report (written by Republican and Democratic staff) pointing out the urgent need for tribes to follow contracting and conflict of interest laws to ensure that legal, lobbying, and other contracts be subjected to "an open and transparent" process. In the Abramoff case, the terms of tribal gaming compacts were routinely kept hidden from tribal members. The report also recommended each Indian tribe be required to obtain a unique identifier number from the Federal Election Commission, so that their contributions can be tracked. Currently, tribes use many different names for the same tribal entity, effectively hiding the true source of the money, and making it almost impossible to quantify total amounts given to federal races.

TRIBES ABUSING THEIR CASINO MONOPOLY

The Abramoff scandal has prompted attention in House Resources and Senate Indian Affairs Committee hearings. As Indian gambling has grown into a \$20 billion a year industry, it's no surprise that abuses and massive corruption followed all that money.

The tribes' 'separate-but-favored' status has protected individual tribal members from the predations to which they, historically, were victim. But, the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act transformed that shield into a sword that has been thrust into established, non-tribal communities whose citizens are left defenseless. And now that sword is sometimes being wielded by people who are not even Native American by blood!

In communities from Connecticut to California, residents are being left with eroding tax bases and increased municipal and social costs. Local land use and community planning is disrupted. Tax-paying businesses are put to a huge competitive disadvantage, while tax-supported public services are heavily burdened.

There are now 245 applications pending to create federally recognized tribes, plus at least seventy-four applications for "off-reservation" land acquisitions by recognized tribes. Each new "tribe in waiting" and fee-to-trust request represents a potential addition to the 75 Indian casinos now operating across America.

OUR PUBLIC EDUCATIONAL WORK GETS A NEW DISTRIBUTION CHANNEL

Some terrific news! ONU has been asked to submit a lengthy Op-ed article on reservation shopping for publication in the Hollywood MovieGuide. Joining your National Director in writing this piece is Dr. David Yeagley, an enrolled member of the Comanche Nation of Lawton, Oklahoma. David is a musician and scholar, with degrees in music, literature, and religion, who is also a published author and columnist for David Horowitz' FrontPageMagazine.com. David has appeared on Hannity & Colmes, Bill O'Reilly, C-Span,

and was recently featured in the History Channel's episode, "Comanche Warriors." Dr. Yeagley hosts his own web site at: www.BadEagle.com Our op-ed entitled "Indian Trouble" will be in next issue of the Hollywood MovieGuide, both print and electronic versions, with nationwide distribution: <http://www.movieguide.org>

EPA TO SPEED REVIEW OF TRIBAL TAS APPLICATIONS

As you know, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has adopted a policy to treat eligible federally-recognized tribes in the same manner as states (referred to as "Treatment As States") for purposes of implementing and managing certain environmental programs, including air quality, water, pesticide use, and Superfund cleanup.

In October 2005, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report entitled, "Indian Tribes: EPA Should Reduce the Review Time for Tribal Requests to Manage Environmental Programs" (GAO-06-95) at www.gao.gov/new.items/d0695.pdf.

The GAO found that "EPA followed its processes in most respects for approving tribal requests for TAS status and program authorization for the twenty cases we reviewed, but we found some lengthy delays in these processes." GAO also noted that some tribes were frustrated by what they perceived as difficulty in getting clear information about the status of pending applications. GAO recommended that: "EPA (should) develop a written strategy, including estimated time frames, for reviewing tribes' TAS applications for program authority and updating the tribes on the review status."

Leadership at the EPA decided more could be done to improve the timeliness of EPA's reviews and to improve communication with tribes concerning their TAS requests. EPA is, therefore, currently developing a strategy designed to "improve the timeliness of the TAS process" and improve communication with Indian tribes concerning their TAS requests. This strategy will guide EPA's internal processes and be made publicly available when finalized in "draft" form.

EPA decided it was important to receive input from tribes during the drafting of its strategy. So, in June of 2006, EPA received input from a tribal work group established by the EPA National Tribal Caucus (NTC) and will continue to coordinating with that work group in the months ahead. EPA staff is now drafting the strategy.

EPA intends to conduct "a broad external review" of the draft strategy "with tribes and other interested stakeholders" later in 2006. For more information contact: Candi Schaedle at the EPA (202) 564-6121 or email: Schaedle.Candi@epa.gov

Rest assured that One Nation United will be a very active participant in the EPA's TAS stakeholder process in the coming months. We'll send you details on the final outcome.

NEW NATIONWIDE POLL SHOWS OPPOSITION TO RESERVATION SHOPPING

We are buoyed by a recent nationwide poll showing voters are strongly opposed to "reservation shopping." According to the poll results, announced in May, 2006, conducted by Hart Research Associates and Public Opinion Strategies:

* Fifty-five percent of Americans oppose Indian tribes acquiring lands far from their historic homelands to build casinos.

* Seventy-nine percent expressed concerns that casino companies and developers are exploiting the special historical status of Native Americans.

* Eighty percent of voters said the possibility of developers and lobbyists contributing money to politicians in exchange for land recognition is of personal concern to them.

* Eighty-five percent of participants said they would like to see the government assist Native Americans in economic development other than casinos.

CITIZENS BAND TOGETHER TO SAY ENOUGH IS TOO MUCH

On Friday, March 31, 2006, **One Nation United** joined a group of concerned citizens groups and local governments in sending a "Petition for Rulemaking" to the Secretary of Interior on the subject of Section 20 of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act. The petitioners were:

One Nation United, a nonpartisan public educational organization, founded in 1984, representing over 300,000 individuals, property owner groups, elected officials, state and national trade associations, many small businesses, and local governments from across America;

Stand Up for Clark County Citizens, a citizen-based, grassroots organization based in Washington State concerned over the potential impacts of a casino proposed by the Cowlitz Tribe,

Stand Up For California, a nonprofit, statewide coalition-building group that acts as an advocate and informational resource on the complexities of tribal gaming expansion;

The American Land Rights Association, a grassroots organization founded in 1978, with 26,000 members located in all 50 states and dedicated to the protection of private property rights. ALRA is a national informational clearinghouse and support coalition; and finally,

Citizens Against Reservation Shopping, a group of citizens formed to oppose the Cowlitz Tribe's plan to build a casino in their county. The membership represents a broad spectrum of Vancouver and Clark County, Washington, citizens.

IGRA legalized casinos in much of the United States to resolve a series of legal decisions about tribal gambling. This federal assertion of power had to be balanced by providing real power to states and local governments even as tribal casinos were authorized within defined situations. Section 20 of IGRA was a key element in that balance. IGRA was intended to create a balance between tribal rights and rights of the state and local community not to have gambling established over their strong objections.

Section 20 provides crucial protections by establishing a general prohibition on gambling on lands acquired after the enactment of IGRA. To escape the general Section 20 prohibition against gaming on "after acquired lands", the Secretary of Interior must either make the "two-part" determination, or find that one of three exceptions to the prohibition exists. Section 20 was intended to create a balance, empowering states and communities to express their opinions on gambling and to demonstrate its adverse impacts.

The Interior Secretary must determine, after consulting with affected tribes and local communities, that opening a casino is in the best interest of the tribe and not detrimental to the surrounding community. The Governor of the affected state must then concur in the Secretary's finding. This is called the "Two-Part Determination" and it is critically important to citizens. From the outset of IGRA's implementation, tribes facing strong local opposition have sought ways to avoid the two-part determination by attempting to fit into one of the exceptions to Section 20.

There are three exceptions to Section 20. Gambling is permitted on post-IGRA lands if the land is part of: 1) the settlement of a land claim; 2) the initial reservation of a newly recognized tribe; or 3) the restoration of lands to a restored tribe. The first exception is largely factual; the second two a mix of fact and discretion. Decisions regarding exceptions 2 and 3 are currently made on an 'ad hoc' basis, without any requirements, notice, due process, or consultation with affected states, communities, or the public. Recent Congressional hearings demonstrate that the exceptions are swallowing the rule, as numerous tribes are now seeking to avoid the two-part test over the objections of impacted communities.

Tribal strategy number one is to avoid the two-part test by claiming an exception. Without regulations in place, both the NIGC and the BIA render decisions without community notice or the opportunity for local citizens to be heard.

Congress, the NIGC, and the BIA have repeatedly acknowledged the need to promulgate regulations to implement the discretionary aspects of Section 20, but they have done nothing for nearly two decades! Now, a combination of state, local and congressional pressure, combined with the embarrassing disclosure of the number of claims pending, have forced the BIA to finally initiate consideration of proposed regulations. It is inexcusable that after 18 years, the NIGC and BIA continue to make decisions without a formal process or standards. Their approach blatantly disregards community concerns.

The BIA's recent effort to establish rules demonstrates the agency's bias in favor of tribal development. The BIA has announced that it

has drafted Section 20 rules, largely in response to Senator McCain's disbelief that no rules exist, and his demand that something be done. Incredibly, the BIA also announced that it will consult with Indian tribes about the rules -- and no one else -- before publishing them for public comment. Although Section 20 was passed to protect states, communities, and the public, the BIA decided that it needed only to consult with Indian tribes. Yet IGRA is not tribal property and the BIA should not treat it as if it is! Section 20 belongs to everyone affected by the avalanche of tribal gambling proposals. It is THE essential provision for achieving a balance between tribal ambition and community protection if Indian gambling expands.

We deserve a voice, too! Because the BIA didn't think it was necessary to consult with community representatives, or even with State Attorneys General, there was no choice but for us to file our own petition outlining the justification for rulemaking, our view of the problems with Section 20, and our own proposed regulations. Section 20 affects states, local governments, and local communities directly. Exceptions to Section 20, declared without notice by the BIA or the NIGC, strip local citizens of rights to participate in the process. The BIA's disregard of community and state interests in the rulemaking process, even as they undertake full consultation with tribal entities, make it probable that our concerns would not be included in the final regulations. For that reason, we felt compelled to defend our interests by conveying our concerns in a Petition.

The rules we proposed would establish standards that all tribes seeking an exception determination would have to meet. To qualify for the restored lands exception a tribe would have to demonstrate a significant cultural and historic connection to the land involved, as well as exclusive use and occupancy. For reservation designations, the tribe would have to demonstrate the same criteria and that gambling is NOT the primary purpose of the land acquisition. Our regulations would establish a formal process by which these decisions would be made and through which the public could participate. No longer will it suffice for a tribe to select a desirable community and claim that it occasionally used the area at some point in the past. The regulations we proposed ensure that decisions regarding the future of our communities are made with full disclosure and with ample opportunity for our voices to be heard.

We'll let you know as soon as we hear back from the Secretary of the Interior in response to our rulemaking petition.

NOTE: A number of community groups and local governments sent letters to the Secretary in support of our "Petition for Rulemaking" as did the Western States Sheriffs' Association on behalf of sheriffs in the thirteen western states. ONU likewise urged city and county governments and citizen groups across the country to send letters and resolutions to Congress supporting either or both of the reform bills that would halt 'reservation shopping' and bring about comprehensive changes to IGRA and the fee-to-trust process. ONU's National Director, for example, worked with Sonoma and Marin County's (Calif) legal counsel on their resolutions supporting Senate Bill 2078, sponsored by Sen. John McCain, to amend the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act and House Bill 4893, sponsored by Rep. Richard Pombo, which would require tribes seeking to acquire trust land for purposes of gambling to negotiate judicially enforceable mitigation agreements with local governments.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Our challenges are great, but the exciting news is that reform is coming! We just returned from another lobbying trip to DC and were pleased to hear, in office after office, that momentum is with us to see real changes occur. Tens of thousands of Americans have joined with us to help us reach this critical point. Thank you for all of your personal help for our cause!

Today we are turning to you to help us again. Your contribution TODAY could be the difference between victory and defeat in what may be our best hope for reform of some of the worst aspects of Federal Indian Policy. The time for talk, strategizing, planning, and researching is over.

It's time to act. NOW is the time for decisive action! Too many people are suffering from apathy, ignorance, naiveté, disinterest, and lack of courage, while our own federal government encourages the tribes to attack our freedoms, our civil liberties, and our property rights to advance their unconstitutional agenda.

Whatever you can send, whether it's \$40, \$100, \$350, \$500 or even more, send it now. Whatever you can contribute will help us keep lobbying DC legislators and bring us that much closer to success in Congress when they vote on these important reforms.

CHOOSE SOME GOOD LAND THEN CLAIM YOUR GREAT GREAT GRANDFATHER CAMPED THERE

"It's true because I say so, and if you don't believe me, you're a racist"

An Indian group from far away, financed by non-Indian investors, should not be able to buy land in the middle of ANY community they choose and claim that it is exempt from all long-standing local land use rules.

This is called "reservation shopping." It has resulted in a national debate that will reshape the \$20 billion-a-year Indian gaming industry. Rep. Richard Pombo, R-CA, and Sen. John McCain, R-AZ, are attempting to outlaw the practice. Both argue that some tribes and their non-Indian financial backers are simply trying to get rich off a law intended to alleviate tribal poverty.

Pending bills from Pombo and McCain take different approaches, although neither is "perfect".

As discussed above, Congressman Richard Pombo has introduced H.B.4893 outlawing the practice of reservation shopping, where tribes buy land in distant areas and have the government take the land in trust to build casinos. At hearings held on this bill, the chairmen of a number of tribes asked that their projects be exempted from any new rules. They argued that, since they have already invested so much money in their projects, it would be unfair to

Continued on page 6

change the rules. Some members of the Resources Committee say tribal leaders make a good argument for such an exemption.

Now we need to have members of the Senate Indian Affairs and House Resources Committees hear “the other side” of this story: How unfair this would be to local citizens! You and your community have much more invested in the area, buying homes, building businesses, and paying taxes to create an entire local government structure. Committee Members need to hear that protecting this investment depends upon everyone following the same rules.

Tell them that Congress needs to close the loophole that has allowed Indian tribes to acquire prime real estate off their reservations in order to build casinos. As we go to print on this Newsletter, the dates to vote on Pombo’s and McCain’s bills are not yet set.

But if McCain’s bill were passed (as currently written) it would allow more than fifty casinos to be built before closing the loophole. McCain’s bill contains a clause that would allow any tribe that has already applied to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to build a casino to continue with their plans. This led to a rush to get in under the wire. After McCain’s bill came out, there were dozens of additional fee-to-trust applications made by tribes.

Rep. Richard Pombo, R-Calif., is sponsoring a House bill that does not contain a grandfather clause. Another difference is that Pombo’s bill has tighter restrictions on local input. It gives local communities more ability to stop an off-reservation casino. Please call Congressman Pombo, Chairman of the House Resources Committee and thank him for sponsoring this “anti-reservation shopping” bill, H.R.4893. He’s trying to help stop the spread of new tribal casinos across our nation. His number is: (202) 225-2761. Fax: (202) 225-5929. E-mail: resources.committee@mail.house.gov

To date, Rep. Pombo has stood firm and has not allowed a ‘grandfather clause’ to be added to his bill. His Committee will consider H.R.4893 soon and attempts will be made to grandfather in many other tribes. Don’t let this happen! Tell Rep. Pombo thanks for standing his ground. Pombo’s California Office number is (209) 951-3091. Our friends in Congress, such as Reps. Mike Rogers of Michigan, Charles Dent of Pennsylvania, and Frank Wolf of Virginia are working closely with Rep. Pombo to help pass H.R.4893.

To read full text of the Resource Committee Chairman Pombo’s bill, H.R.4893, go to: <http://resourcescommittee.house.gov/subcommittees/naia/nativeamer/offfreshr4893.pdf>

Your congressional representative can help us. Urge him or her to get involved and help stop reservation shopping and grandfathering for tribal casinos. Please do it today!!

Call your congressional representative and urge him or her to ask Resources Committee Chairman Pombo to oppose any grandfather amendment to the House Reservation Shopping Bill, H.R.4893. Any Congressman can be called at (202) 225-3121. Tell your elected leaders that you will view not moving on this crucial legislation as a refusal to stand up for everyday Americans over the interests of overreaching Indian tribes and corrupt Big Government (i.e. the Bureau of Indian Affairs). If the House does vote on H.R.4893

before adjourning for August recess, then our efforts need to be focused on the Senate side.

S.2078 is now on the Senate calendar. Although it, too, is far from being a “perfect” bill, it’s a huge step in the right direction! This bill contains several major changes in terms of the regulation of tribal gambling. First, the bill eliminates the ability of tribes to acquire land outside of their existing reservations for casinos. Second, for tribes without a reservation, S.2078 makes it harder to obtain land for gambling purposes. The National Indian Gaming Association, representing more than one hundred and fifty tribes, has come out strongly against most of this bill’s provisions.

Call, fax and email Senator John McCain, Chairman of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee and tell him you are opposed to ANY grandfather language in S.2078. This bill will come up for a vote in the Senate soon, probably after the August recess. See <http://indian.senate.gov/> for current news.

Contact information:

E-mail: john_mccain@mccain.senate.gov
Senator John McCain, Chairman,
Committee on Indian Affairs
838 Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Fax: 202-224-5429 Phone: 202-224-2251

Call, fax, and email your Senators today, urging them to oppose any grandfather language that will help Indian tribes build new casinos, perhaps in your town. All grandfather language must be stripped out of S.2078. Ask your Senator if he will sponsor or co-sponsor an amendment to remove all grandfather language. The best time to contact them is while they are home during August recess! Also contact their staff in DC to leave messages; faxes are the best.

You’ll find complete contact information for your U.S. Senators at: http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm

Contact also: Hon. Dirk Kempthorne, Secretary of the Interior,
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240
PHONE: 202-208-3100 or (202) 208-7351
FAX: 202-208-5040 or (202) 208-6956 or (202) 208-5048
E-mail: exsec@ios.doi.gov.

“All tyranny needs to gain a foothold is for people of good conscience to remain silent.”

**President
Thomas Jefferson**



AKAKA BILL DEAD FOR NOW

We're very happy to report that (Thanks to help from ALL OF YOU across the Nation!) we succeeded in killing the divisive Akaka bill. The Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act (S.147) would have created a separate, sovereign, race-based government for ethnic Hawaiians with even one drop of Hawaiian blood. We don't, for a minute, believe it is over though.

Senator Inouye plans soon to introduce a new bill, purportedly without creating a new sovereign government. His plan has been described as creating a race-based ethnic Hawaiian "government" without federal recognition, by transferring state and federal assets to the new entity. Inouye says he hopes House sponsors of the Native Hawaiian bill — Democratic Reps. Neil Abercrombie and Ed Case — will introduce a similar bill in the House. Akaka's goal is to protect the 160 special entitlement programs now in place for ethnic Hawaiians, which have been challenged and overturned by court rulings. The U.S. Supreme Court recently sent this question back to the 9th Circuit for a new ruling. So the battle continues.

As reported by our good friend Malia Zimmerman in the Hawaii Reporter, this vote marked an end to six years of work by Sen. Akaka to get S.147 passed. Malia says political observers noted a number of classic mistakes Hawaii's elected officials made in their hyper-aggressive, yet ultimately failed, lobbying campaign.

They ignored the public's lack of support for the measure and concerned themselves only with recruiting endorsements from the state's top political leaders. They overestimated the power of government over the power of the people. We succeeded against overwhelming odds, folks! Rather than grassroots support, they believed the millions they spent to promote the bill would manipulate almost everyone into supporting the Akaka bill.

They wrote legislation that divided rather than united their state's non-Hawaiian and ethnic Hawaiian communities. They also underestimated their opponents and attacked them personally, rather than addressing their statements with facts and convincing arguments. And they seriously misjudged the influence that Hawaii's Gov. Lingle would have in swaying President Bush and Republican Senators to favor the bill. She failed — a fact demonstrated when the Bush Administration released a letter saying the Administration strongly opposed the Akaka bill.

Finally, they underestimated the negative influence Mainlanders would have once 'sunshine' was put on the true implications of the bill through more than fifty nationally published op-eds and articles.

Whatever your political leanings, when a politician takes a stand in your favor, say Thank You. Everyone gets very tired of just hearing complaints about the things we don't like — let's tell them about the things we do like.

We recently sent the following message to President Bush:

*Dear President Bush
The White House
Washington, DC*

RE: S.147 "THE AKAKA BILL"

THANK YOU!

For your strong and principled opposition to this divisive bill. The June 8 cloture vote avoided the creation of a race-based government in America.

Barb Lindsay, National Director, for the BOARD OF DIRECTORS of ONE NATION UNITED on behalf of our membership across America

ACTION ITEM

Please write, call, or email your message of thanks to the President:

President George W. Bush
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500-0001
comments@whitehouse.gov
TEL. 202-456-1111
FAX: 202-456-2461

ONU PRESIDENT'S REPORT

BY DAVID JAQUES

Greetings from the great state of Oregon! I wanted to share with all of you some exciting information about a recent trip your National Director, Barb Lindsay and I made to our Nation's Capitol. Douglas County Commissioner Marilyn Kittelman, and local Canyonville (home of our State's very first casino) business owner,

Continued on page 8

Page 7

Carol Malmay accompanied us to most of our meetings during the week of May 7th through the 12th.

Due to One Nation United's past exposure, Barb was able to get us some excellent appointments with key leaders on the Hill. We had a variety of important topics to discuss and had a very full schedule of meetings with a wide range of Congressional staffers, as well as the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the National Indian Gaming Commission. One key topic of our discussion before each of the groups we met with was the fee-to-trust transfer process and the need for limitations on the quantity of lands the BIA is approving for transfer.

We had several very productive meetings on this subject, the first of which was with the Deputy Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Mr. Michael R. Smith. Director Smith had several members of his staff present, and gave their full attention to our concerns about the fee-to-trust issue. We stressed during our conversation with the BIA leadership that we fully recognize and support the right of tribes to "self-governance" which is the sovereignty they desire. We did not take exception of their right to purchase real property.

What Commissioner Kittelman and the others of our delegation did share was a grave concern over the issue of removing the land tribes purchase from our tax rolls, with no end in sight and no cap on the amount of land we will all lose if this process is not limited. Director Smith and his staff were very attentive, and indicated that they appreciated hearing a different perspective on this important issue. He also informed us that the Bush Administration is very focused on the issue and is now considering possible reforms. (Upon our return from DC, the Bush Administration sent letters to the leadership of both the House and Senate calling for major reforms to tribal gambling in regard to Class II vs. Class III machines. Tribes oppose such changes, saying they give more power to states.)

One thing that was very interesting during our BIA meeting was the admission by one of their staff from Northeast Oklahoma that they (the Cherokee Tribe) own outright over two-thirds of the county. I asked if this BIA employee, when she used the term "we" referring to the Cherokee Tribe, if she was representing the Tribe during our meeting, to which she replied she was not. An interesting point, however, was that all of the people we met with at the BIA were tribal members.

We also met with several agencies and congressional staff to explain to them exactly how much land has already been transferred into trust in Douglas County, Oregon, to date some 4,000 acres! Commissioner Kittelman also told them that the day she left for D.C. there was an additional application on her desk from the Tribe to transfer even more land.

We raised concerns about the local community actually having any impact on the BIA's final decision as to which lands are taken into trust, and the time frame that elapses before they can be taken off the tax rolls. We were told that this could take anywhere from two to five years.

The actual process is that when a casino tribe requests another transfer to tax exempt status, the BIA solicits the input of local governing authorities that may be adversely impacted. The next step is for them to respond, highlighting the various concerns their constituents have shared, or that may not be in the best interest of all local residents and taxing districts.

By and large, our visit was very well received. A common response we received was the need for "our side" of the story to be told. The folks we met with were polite and we gained a lot of insight from them, as well as getting our message across. Most of them said that they hear daily from different tribes in support of trust transfers.

An interesting piece of news we received was that there are over 200 tribes represented in the halls of Congress and at the various agencies by full-time, paid lobbyists stationed permanently in Washington D.C. They have a daily presence there and can press forward with their agenda without ceasing. We were told that our visit was helpful and that they were happy to have us come and appreciated hearing our concerns.

One Nation United was well represented by our contingent that traveled across the country to be heard. Even though we can't afford 200 or more full time lobbyists to press our case daily, as the tribes do, we do have you - - our faithful supporters - - who combine forces across this great Nation, so that our voices can be heard!

Here's a list of some of the good people we met with: Thomas Brierton, Professional Staff member of the U.S. House Committee on Resources; Joseph Matal, Counsel U. S. Senate Judiciary Committee and staff member for Senator Jon Kyl; Brian Treat, Legislative Asst. to Senator Tom Coburn of Oklahoma; Cherie Harder, Policy Advisor Office of the Majority Leader Senator William Frist of Tennessee; Cynthia Shaw, Majority Counsel Committee on Indian Affairs for Senator John McCain, Chairman; and with Congressman Richard Pombo, Chair of the House Resources Committee. We were also given an audience with Philip N. Hogen, Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Commission and his entire staff.

After our departure, Barb met with Pete Richards, Legislature Director and Counsel to Rep. Charles Dent of Pennsylvania; Courtney Schlieter, Appropriations Legislative Assistant to Rep. Frank Wolf of Virginia; Andy Keiser, Legislative Director to Rep. Mike Rogers of Michigan; Connie Partoyan, Legislative Director, and Mike Poulson, Field Director for Rep. Cathy McMorris of Washington; Keith Cassidy, Legislative Assistant to Senator George Allen of Virginia; Jason Gagnon, Legislative Assistant to Rep. Ken Calvert of California; and Connie Dwyer, Staff Director for Rep. George Radanovich of California, among a number of others.

A final note on our visit, and certainly one of the highlights, was a special invitation to sit in on an invitation-only roundtable meeting of top leadership from Congress, leading pro-business nonprofit groups and think tanks. Our issue with tribal land transfers was also given a platform at this influential gathering, when I was given the chance to ask Rep. Pombo a question about his pending fee-to-trust reform bill, HR 4893. At the meeting's conclusion, Barb delivered our presentation folder on these important issues to Tim Goeglein, Special Assistant to President Bush and White House representative to this gathering.

All in all we had a very productive week in D.C. and made several new contacts that will be beneficial as we press forward in seeking reform. Your voice has clearly been heard in our Nation's Capitol!

A brief bit of news from Douglas County, Oregon: Our Board of Commissioners has just referred to the voters a ballot measure for this November's general election. The ballot question, which is an advisory vote, will be: "Should there be a limit to the number of acres that tribes can take into trust and off the tax rolls?" This is a first-in-the-nation effort to get a formal response from the voters on this important issue. It has been met with open hostility from the Umpqua Band of the Cow Creek Tribe, and their representative has even gone so far as to say they are seeking federal court action to prevent the voters from being heard.

Keep a close eye on this precedent-setting election. We will keep you informed in future issues of this Newsletter. Remember how Douglas County Commissioner Chairman, Marilyn Kittelman joined us on our visit to D.C.? As thanks for her efforts there has been a recall effort started here in our County. Probably just a coincidence that this occurred just weeks after her return from D.C. The recall will likely go nowhere, but it goes to show what might be expected when opposing so-called tribal interests.

**"Democracy is never a final achievement.
It is a call to an untiring effort."**

President John F. Kennedy

ONU'S NEWEST MEMBER GROUP Helping Local Communities

Since voters approved Indian gambling in California in 2000, Casinos have spread across the state like wildfire. The proliferation of casinos has transformed the once small time Indian gambling industry into one of the state's most lucrative, with an estimated \$6 billion dollars in profit last year. The 'special status' of Indian tribes, lack of regulation at the state and federal levels, and the vague laws governing this relatively new industry have allowed wealthy tribes and even wealthier non-tribal investors to take advantage of the system by exploiting loopholes and skirting the law. Casinos are opening up closer and closer to high population areas. News stories reporting cases of reservation shopping and attempts by tribes to secure off-reservation casinos have become the norm.

The problems with Indian gambling are systemic. Local communities simply do not have enough say over their own future when an Indian casino is proposed for their area. Community groups fighting individual casinos can win on a local level with little outside support

-- and they do -- but all the casino backers have to do is move on to another town and try again.

At ground zero are local communities. Community groups, churches, and neighborhoods fighting to keep a casino out of their area often find themselves lost in a swirl of corrupt politics, up against gambling interests with millions of dollars to spend to defeat them. "Communities United Against Urban Casinos" is trying to change that.

"Communities United Against Urban Casinos" began in the East San Francisco Bay, the epicenter of reservation shopping and urban casinos. In the East Bay alone there are three proposals for urban casinos within 5 miles of each other. The largest and most notorious of the three is Casino San Pablo, an enormous 600,000-sq/ft facility with 5,000 slot machines to be located in the heart of a heavily urbanized area, just off the most traffic-plagued strip of freeway in the Bay Area, the I-80. Working with State Legislators, local elected officials, One Nation United, clergy and community members, this group was able to stop the Lytton proposal (which would have given I-80 some of the worst traffic in the state) from being approved by the State Assembly.

Since then "Communities United Against Urban Casinos" have continued the fight against San Pablo and other proposed casinos in the Bay Area, but also expanded their focus. They realized that there are many other communities that share the same problems, problems caused by a runaway Indian gambling industry, and that the way for each group to win locally is join up with other groups. By working together, communities can unite against a shared problem, build strength and influence in numbers, and stand stronger as a result.

They're working with groups across California to share best practices, work together to strengthen the presence of casino opposition in Sacramento and Washington, and find new ways to give back to local communities the strong tradition of self-determination that is at grave risk of being lost. To join their mailing list or simply learn more about this wonderful new member group of ONU visit: www.stopurbacasinos.org or contact them directly by email at: info@StopUrbanCasinos.org

ANOTHER BLOW TO TRIBAL SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY

A California court announced preliminary rulings in the Stations Casino sexual harassment case in June. A Placer County court found that Stations Casino, LLC, the management company for an Indian casino, could not hide behind tribal sovereign immunity and could be sued for damages. Both the management company and the Tribe were told that they had to obey the labor laws that every other business must obey and that doing so would not threaten the ability of the Tribe to govern its members or its community. Curtis Broome, an employee of Stations Casino and the tribal casino, is accused of sexual assault and harassment. The court ruled that

Continued on page 10

Broome, as an individual employee of a tribal casino, could not hide behind sovereign immunity and could be sued. The court commissioner's ruling gives a possibly precedent-setting new legal twist to the battle between Thunder Valley Casino and seven former employees who claim sexual harassment and age discrimination.

Commissioner Margaret Wells' ruling turned the United Auburn Indian Community's sovereign immunity defense on its head. Since the Tribe recently adopted its own ordinance mirroring state and federal civil rights laws, she held the Tribe's sovereignty would not be violated if those laws were applied to this case. If confirmed, this ruling would allow the Plaintiffs to continue their case, despite the Tribe's claim that sovereignty makes it immune from civil rights lawsuits. So far, the Tribe has fended off the casino workers' lawsuit by citing its sovereignty. It claims that immunity also protects Station Casinos Inc., a Nevada-based company that manages Thunder Valley for the Tribe. In the unlikely event that the court's decisions are overturned, the Plaintiffs will hopefully appeal this all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. We'll keep you posted.

ONU's National Director has been working closely with members of the California State Association of Counties as they have grappled with the thorny issue of Indian gambling, attempting to ensure that county boards of supervisors have the tools to protect affected communities from the impacts of tribal casinos - - both rural and urban. Official policy that is consistent with the intent of the House and Senate versions of IGRA reform bills was recently adopted by the CSAC Board representing all fifty-eight counties in California. CSAC policy specifically addresses the issue of "reservation shopping" and states that: "CSAC opposes the practice commonly referred to as 'reservation shopping' where a tribe seeks to place land into trust outside its aboriginal territory over the objection of the affected county." Our thanks to CSAC for their crucial support! CSAC has testified and sent letters, too.

LOCAL NEWS FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY

NEBRASKA: An effort by the Omaha, Santee Sioux, and Winnebago Tribes to collect enough signatures on a petition to amend the State's Constitution to allow Class III Indian casinos failed to make the ballot by July 7th deadline for signature collection.

OREGON: In April of 2006, Oregon's People Against a Casino Town (PACT) announced, "We are back in the fight. Now that the Court of Appeals has reactivated our case, we will be briefing and arguing the mandamus there, on our way to the Oregon Supreme Court." According to PACT's attorney, Kelly Clark, "Now that the U.S. District Court has told us that our attempts to have the tribal casino invalidated cannot be heard under federal law because of tribal immunity, we have all the ammunition we need to convince

TRIBAL COMPACTS TOSSED: For those who think we can't do anything to stop tribal casinos, here's some breaking news. The California State Assembly Governmental Operations Committee voted 7-2 in late June to reject the compacts entered into between Governor Schwarzenegger and two California tribes, effectively killing plans for their proposed casinos. The compacts would have allowed a "casino zone" to be created near the Town of Barstow, outside of Palm Springs.

the State courts that we have no adequate remedy at law," which is the prerequisite to having a petition for mandamus — a request that the courts order an executive official, in this case, the Governor, to do his job — considered by the State courts. See PACT's excellent web page: <http://www.pactoregon.org> Kudos to Deb Todd and the rest of the leadership of PACT for their tenacious battle to achieve justice for citizens of their lovely, small town. We hope they win this very worthy, nationally precedent-setting case!

NEW YORK: A bill has been introduced in the New York State Senate (S.8396) to fast track the settlement of the land claims by the Stockbridge Munsee Mohegans and the Wisconsin Oneidas and to ultimately pave the way for new casinos in Sullivan and Ulster Counties. The bill also ratifies the Turning Stone Casino compact, giving the Oneidas the right to install 2,000 slot machines, including an exclusivity for slots in the region around Turning Stone.

This is being proposed despite recent court rulings to the effect that the land on which Turning Stone sits is not sovereign nor held in trust, but instead is fee land. The good news is on the Assembly side. Speaker Sheldon Silver has said he is "not impressed" with this attempted end run around the contrary court decisions and, hopefully, this bill will not pass the Assembly. But the rush with which it was being proposed in the Senate is extremely disturbing.

Also in New York State, the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe is proposing to build a Class III casino at the Monticello Raceway in Sullivan County, New York. DOI is expected to render its decision this summer on whether to take this land into trust for the Tribe, for the purpose of building a large casino complex. DOI's decision, in all likelihood, will not be based on the evaluation of a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires. Instead, Interior is contemplating using the much lower standard of an Environmental Assessment (EA) to render its decision. This is a particularly egregious attempt to fast track this project for two reasons: first, the scale of this proposal, and its effect upon local community character, surpasses any reasonable standard for invocation of the full EIS; second, this particular EA dates back to the late 1990s and Interior is considering merely updating this very "out-of-date" document. Local groups in Sullivan, Ulster, Erie, and Orange Counties are working together to stop this end-run around the law.

These groups believe that should an EA decide this issue, it would not only represent an abrogation of Interior's responsibilities and do a grave injustice to the people in their state and region, it would also raise a danger flag for ALL communities across our Nation facing similar fee-to-trust application requests.



They are asking for and would much appreciate ONU members' support in their effort to require a full EIS. Please contact the Dept. of the Interior (See address & contact info on Page 6) asking them to require a full EIS. Tell them there's too much at stake for a simple EA and that local communities deserve a fair shake. It would also be extremely helpful to make your opinion known to BOTH your U.S. Senators and to your own member of Congress. Thank you!

The New York Association of Convenience Stores has filed a lawsuit to make the NY Tax Commissioner actually implement their law requiring taxes be paid on cigarettes and motor fuels sold by Indian tribes unless the tribe provides a State-issued exemption coupon. They have also sued the wholesalers for an order requiring them to follow the law. Our hats are off to ONU member group, National Assn. of Convenience Stores, for helping fund this vital litigation.

New York is the leading state for illegal Internet cigarette trafficking and smuggling, especially by Indian tribes. Nine other states have joined New York, major credit card companies, and the federal government's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to crack down on these billions of dollars in annual sales. Federal officials say such sales not only fund terrorists, but also supply cigarettes to minors and cost state governments hundreds of millions of dollars in vital revenue. The vast majority of on-line sales of cigarettes are by tribal retailers, in violation of both state and federal law, including statutes requiring sellers to verify the age of buyers and requiring sales to be reported to tax authorities. The number of on-line retailers operating nationwide was approximately 1,000 in 2005, with total sales of \$5 billion dollars.

CONNECTICUT: State and town officials were happy to hear that the Interior Board of Indian Appeals overturned the BIA's recognition of two petitioning groups as one tribe (Eastern Pequots and Paucatuck Eastern Pequots) as the Historic "Eastern Pequot Tribe". However, tribal leader Marcia Jones Flowers says they are considering a court challenge to that decision.

Of greatest concern now to many citizens in Southeastern Connecticut is the massive, urban-style highway project to be built in a rural area by the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe.

ONU local government member, the Town of North Stonington, has formally appealed the Traffic Commission's decision to build this project that would straighten curves, remove old stone walls, and sweep away what remains of the road's rural charm. Town opposition to widening of Route 2 is well known. But the only input that local citizens have had was at an Inland Wetlands Commission hearing where they were directed to confine their comments to "environmental" issues and not "political" ones. When a citizen asked the engineer about the width of the roadway, the chair told her this was a "political" question. The Mashantuckets are paying for this unwanted, unneeded cloverleaf highway, so the State Traffic Commission says it doesn't have to get local approval, except for the Wetlands Commission. The State says no local voice is needed because it is being paid for with "private money," rather than government funds. Yet tribes constantly claim to be governments!

Special thanks to First Selectman Nicholas H. Mullane II for his courage and tenacity in this ongoing effort to bring balance to a difficult situation, as he tries to protect the rural nature of North Stonington. Nick serves on ONU's Advisory Committee.

MINNESOTA: Mille Lacs County has an ongoing boundary dispute with the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. This tribal government is attempting to resurrect a former 61,000-acre reservation...one that has been off the maps and out of public consciousness for over 100 years! Individual tribal members have recently made a number of challenges to the State's jurisdiction vis-a-vis particular court cases, wherein defendants are seeking dismissal of State charges, on either the basis of reservation status, or claims of exemption based on expanded treaty hunting and fishing rights. These cases are currently at the District Court level. The County intends to do what is necessary to defend the State's jurisdiction.

IDAHO: ONU Board Member and North Central Idaho Jurisdictional Alliance Executive Director, Dan Johnson, reports that the Nez Perce Tribe is still refusing to pay local property taxes, in spite of court precedent that their fee lands are, in fact, taxable. Lewis County can't afford to fight the Tribe in court, so the Commissioners continue to meet with the Tribe on this issue. The tribal delegation failed to attend the last two meetings. Idaho's Governor also continues to meet secretly with Idaho's tribal leaders on a regular basis. The State seems to be willing to let Idaho tribes keep millions of dollars in fuel taxes collected at tribally-owned gas stations annually, in spite of federal court rulings to the contrary. Talk about selling out your own constituents? When will the voters of Idaho wake up and express outrage? Political correctness and 'media spin' rule the day and this needs to change.

WASHINGTON STATE: In Whatcom County, the Lummi tribal ground water adjudication case is proceeding. In that the Judge ruled there was no "community" water right intended for the Tribe, the major parties have entered negotiations to resolve subsequent allocation of and jurisdiction over the water. There will be a motion to reject any settlement as certain parties want a court

decision on the jurisdictional issues. These private property owners believe that Lummi, as a “public domain” reservation, should be subject to Washington State jurisdiction.

Also in Whatcom County, the Nooksack Tribe is planning to break ground on their second casino. It’s to be located in a prime agricultural area. No one has seen the Tribe’s purported trust deed or any fee-to-trust application papers. The Tribe contends the parcel was purchased in 1972 and became trust land in 1985, three years prior to passage of IGRA. State Rep. Doug Ericksen plans to ask Nooksack tribal leaders to abandon the idea of building a casino “in the heart” of rural farmland. State Rep. Kelli Linville issued a statement saying she “respect(s) the Nooksack Tribe’s ability to use the land how they feel fit,” but she questions using berry and dairy land, with no nearby highways, and only two-lane farm roads providing access for a casino. This proposed casino location defies the County Comprehensive Plan, the County Zoning Code, and the Washington State Growth Management Act. Craig Mayberry of the North County Community Alliance announced that his local group plans to file a lawsuit over the land’s trust status. “We are going to be challenging this,” Mayberry declared. Thumbs up!

SMALL BUSINESSES BEING HURT BY TRIBES

Would you drive to a reservation if you could save \$5-\$10 in filling up your gas tank? Most people would and that frightens state officials who are assessing the impact of a recent federal court ruling that bars collection of state tax on Indian reservations. The court decision is creating \$100 million a year in losses to Washington State. The lost revenues just from pumps owned by the Squaxin and Swinomish tribes, who won the court ruling, add up to more than \$350,000 a year, while more local gas stations close.

It got worse on July 1, when Washington’s gas tax went from 31 cents to 34 cents a gallon, then goes up another 2 cents next year and then up another 1.5 cents in 2008 — adding a total of up to 37.5 cents in tax on each gallon sold. With the State losing \$100 million in tax revenue annually, it can’t finish urgently needed transportation projects, which means traffic gets worse and businesses are less inclined to locate there, which ultimately means there won’t be as much money to leave behind at tribal casinos.

The Washington State Attorney General’s Office has filed an appeal to the ruling. Their brief is due the end of January ’07. The case will likely be argued in September ’07 and decided in late ’07 or early ’08. Contact Senior Counsel Deborah Cade at 360-753-4964 if you would like more information. Thank you to AG Rob McKenna!

WISCONSIN: Property owners in Menominee County are reeling from the 42% school levy increase on their tax bills. Only 1% of the land is taxable in Menominee County and the low number of permanent residents on that land make it extremely difficult - if not impossible - to have any type of control of the School Board and school spending. The school is 100% Native American, as the few tax-paying permanent residents (15%) are retirees with no children in the system. ONU Member Group, the Menominee County Taxpayers Association, urged their elected representatives to ask the State Audit Commission to conduct an audit of the school system to attempt to make it accountable. The

District has the highest spending per student and lowest teacher per student ratio of anywhere in the State. But the Audit Commission declined their request, saying it was a local issue. MCTA is going back to Madison again this summer. Adding salt to the wound, they discovered the Menominee Tribe, who pay nothing toward their schools, has offered the Kenosha School Board one million dollars to facilitate an agreement which would allow the tribe to open an off-reservation casino in Kenosha.

ALASKA: The House Small Business Committee and House Government Reform Committee summoned witnesses to testify in June on a program allowing Native corporations to get “no-bid” federal contracts of unlimited size. The hearing examined whether Alaska Natives actually benefit from the program and whether there is adequate government oversight. Critics claim that “sole-sourcing” any government contract is poor public policy because it shortchanges taxpayers. The U.S. government awarded contracts worth \$1.1 billion to Native firms in 2004. Other minority groups have a \$3 million to \$5 million cap on the size of contracts they can get without competitive bidding. Outrageous!?

NORTH DAKOTA: The Grand Forks Casino Petition Committee, opponents to the idea of a tribal casino in Grand Forks, have already submitted petitions to City officials with thousands of signatures. The Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa are trying to get federal, state, and local approval for land just south of Grand Forks to be converted into federal trust land to build a Class III casino. According to ND Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem, Gov. John Hoeven would have to approve this trust conversion and he could veto it, even if it were approved by the Dept. of Interior. Tribal officials might decide to put electronic bingo casinos on trust land the Tribe already owns elsewhere, claiming they don’t need a gambling compact to offer Class II electronic bingo. State officials say electronic bingo could be deemed an expansion of gambling and something the Legislature would have to approve. For additional information, contact Jerry Hjelden at (701) 795-4804.

RHODE ISLAND: The Legislature has approved a constitutional amendment to allow voters to decide whether or not the Narragansett Indian Tribe can open a casino. Gov. Donald Carcieri (who is a staunch opponent of tribal gambling) cannot veto the amendment, which will go before voters this November. Contact Gov. Carcieri to voice your support for his continuing effort to prevent gambling expansion into his State: Honorable Governor Donald L. Carcieri, Office of the Governor, State House, Room 115, Providence, RI 02903 Phone: (401) 222-2080 Fax: (401) 222-8096 Or you can leave a message at Governor Carcieri’s website: www.gov.state.ri.us

In closing, thank you for making this a banner year for ONU. Remember to use the enclosed envelope to keep our work going! Don’t forget to contact your congressional reps about the Pombo and McCain bills, both during and after the August recess. We cannot succeed without you!!

Gratefully Yours,

