



January 28, 2008

Honorable Dirk Kempthorne  
Secretary of the Department of the Interior  
U. S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Kempthorne,

Greetings from Focus on the Family and the millions of concerned families we represent. We write to commend you for recognizing the intent of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA) in regard to Sec. 20 and off-reservation gambling. Thank you for having the courage to deny improper requests to place off-reservation land into trust for the purposes of gambling. Our organization and the families we represent affirm your noble and just actions to cease the ongoing abuse of the IGRA.

Tribal exploitation of off-reservation gambling is a growing concern among many families, especially considering tribes' increasing political influence in Congress. Rep. Richard Pombo's investigations established that nearly 10 percent of the tribal casinos operating today are on land that was not in trust as of 1988 [Oversight hearing on H.R. 4893, 17 March 2005].

As a growing number of governors blindly saddle states with long-term, tribal gambling compacts, citizens are increasingly losing their ability to preserve and defend their families against the social ramifications of Indian gambling expansion. Research recognizes gambling's erosion of our social fabric through increased addiction, bankruptcy, crime, destruction of families and suicide. Today we affirm your leadership, and we applaud your wisdom in protecting millions of families nationwide from the spurious expansion of off-reservation gambling. We encourage you to continue upholding the IGRA's original intent.

Thank you for your time, consideration and service to this great nation.

Sincerely,

Tom Minnery  
Senior Vice President  
Government and Public Policy

Sincerely,

Chad Hills  
Analyst for Gambling Research & Policy  
Government and Public Policy