



May 29, 2008

The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne, Secretary
United States Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Kempthorne:

We write to express our concern and opposition to an application filed by the Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma to place in land into trust in Oklahoma City for gaming purposes.

We are well aware of the unique history of the Shawnee Tribe and the successful legislative effort to grant the tribe its current legal status. Indeed, some of us were the authors of the legislation granting the Shawnee Tribe its federal status as a recognized tribe. As such, we all unequivocally oppose the current application and urge its rejection.

We believe the tribe has no legal or historical claim to the current site. In fact, the land in question is nearly 200 miles from the tribe's current headquarters in far northeastern Oklahoma. The tribe has no historical ties to central Oklahoma or the City of Oklahoma City. Additionally, no tribe has ever had land taken into trust on the "Unassigned Lands" of central Oklahoma. In evaluating the Shawnee trust application, we urge you to take these considerations into account.

Please note that the citizens of the communities surrounding the parcel, on which the Shawnee tribe plans to construct a Class III gaming facility, oppose the trust application of the Shawnee tribe. We urge the Secretary to take into consideration the wishes of the impacted communities and reject the trust application of the Shawnee tribe.

The application filed by January 22, 2008 represents a major departure from past trust acquisitions in Oklahoma and is contrary to the preferences of the impacted communities. Therefore we stand in strong opposition, and urge your disapproval of the application.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of James M. Inhofe in black ink.

James M. Inhofe
United States Senator

Handwritten signature of Tom A. Coburn in black ink.

Tom A. Coburn, MD
United States Senator

Mary Fallin

Mary Fallin
Member of Congress

Mick Cornett

Mick Cornett
Mayor, Oklahoma City