



May 15, 2008

Stanley Speaks
Northwest Regional Director
Bureau of Indian Affairs
911 NE 11th Ave.
Portland, Oregon 97232-4169


Re: Cascade Locks Casino Project DEIS

Dear Director Speaks:

I am writing on behalf of the Oregon Department of Economic and Community Development ("ODECD") to offer cooperative agency comments concerning the Draft Environmental Impact Statement ("DEIS") prepared by your office on the Warm Springs Tribe's Cascade Locks Resort and Casino Project.

The Cascade Locks Casino project will provide economic benefits to residents of the local communities and governmental jurisdictions in the Cascade Locks area. As stated in the purpose and need section of the DEIS, the Warm Springs Tribe faces serious financial challenges. The regional economy of north central Oregon and the Columbia River Gorge is also distressed. The economic stimulus benefits of this project will provide needed economic growth and will provide an economic multiplier effect as this project generates private income, local and state revenue, and shared new public resources. I specifically mention the importance of shared new public resources because of the two benefits funds that will be created by the Cascade Locks Project. The Community Benefit Fund will address infrastructure improvement needs of the local community and will provide a continuing source of funds for projects in nearby counties and in the Columbia River Gorge. The Warm Springs Tribes/Oregon Fund will provide a source of non-state funding for scholarships for Oregon students to attend Oregon public and private universities. This statewide fund will also provide funding for projects that protect and enhance the Columbia River Gorge Scenic Area and for projects that address economic development needs of communities across the state. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Bob Repine
Director

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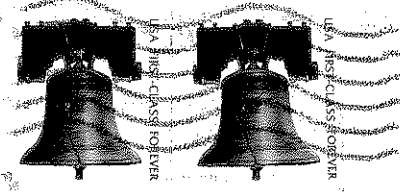
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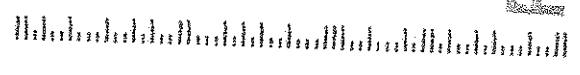
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