

Response to Inquiry on behalf of the Cow Creek Tribe

Anna Richter Taylor <anna@artpublicaffairs.com>

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To: Adam Andrzejewski <Adam@openthebooks.com>;

 1 attachments (108 KB)

Letter re Coquille Casino from Winters and McLane.pdf;

Adam,

Please see the statement below on behalf of Michael Rondeau, CEO of the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians.

Also please see the most recent letter of opposition to the Coquille's casino proposal that was sent to the US Department of Interior by State Republican Legislative leaders.

Thank you,
Anna

Statement by Michael Rondeau, CEO, Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians

"Recent stories relating to the Cow Creek Tribe's relationship with the Oregon Lottery are false, misleading, and mask the real issue that Oregonians need to be concerned about.

The Cow Creek did have preliminary conversations with the Oregon State Lottery about the potential of offering scratch tickets and other lottery products – not video terminals – at our travel center, just as hundreds of other similar centers do across the state.

Some of those conversations included sharing proprietary Tribal financial information, necessitating an NDA.

For a variety of reasons those preliminary conversations ended and the Tribe is not pursuing any such effort.

The Tribe has always and will always abide by IGRA in its pursuit of gaming operations.

However, the Coquille Tribe is attempting to circumvent IGRA against the will of the state and local governments and develop a second casino in Medford, which 180 miles away from its current reservation in Coos Bay.

Coquille's proposal has longstanding opposition from the State of Oregon, specifically Governors Kitzhaber and Brown, as well as Jackson County and the City of Medford.

Senators Wyden and Merkley and Representatives DeFazio, Bonamici, Blumenauer and Schrader, in addition to state elected officials from both parties also oppose the project.

If the Coquille's off-reservation casino project in Medford is approved by the U.S. Department of Interior outside of the IGRA process that requires local government input and state approval, it sets Oregon on an irreversible course of allowing casinos to be sited across the state without any check or balance. That is why neighboring cities like Ashland also oppose the project.

Instead of being barraged with election year rhetoric and attacks, Oregonians need to understand what is being proposed in Medford and the implications for the rest of the state if it is approved."

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