

ESTATES AT SUMMIT PARK HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

estatesatsummitparkhoa@gmail.com

c/o 8573 Turners Bay Place
Anacortes, WA 98221

RECEIVED
SKAGIT COUNTY
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
2017 JUN -7 AM 10:23

June 3, 2017

The Honorable Ryan Zinke
Secretary of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington D.C. 20240

RE: Swinomish Indian Tribal Community Constitutional amendments and Jurisdictional Claims

References:

- a) Skagit County Commissioners letter to Secretary of the Interior, dated 18 May 2017
- b) Tesoro Refining and Marketing letter to secretary of the Interior, dated 4 May 2017

Secretary Zinke,

We are one of several groups of home and property owners who would be affected by the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community's (SITC) plans to expand their reservation. We are the board members of the Estates at Summit Park. This letter is collaboration between our members and our neighbors within the expansion area.

Our homes, as well as several businesses and two large refineries would become controlled by a Tribal Council which only has to be responsive to SITC members. We could lose our access and influence with Skagit County government as the Tribal Council is not accountable to non-members. Our taxes could be increased, our access could be restricted, zoning, environmental restrictions, water rights and numerous other onerous restrictions could be implemented by the Tribal Council, and we would have no recourse. Conversely, the SITC may choose not to enforce or regulate these functions of local government.

SITC tribal members have recently accepted constitutional amendments to expand both their boundary and their control over all persons within the reservation. *They are awaiting BIA approval of these changes, which is possible any time now or at least by July 7.* We urgently ask that you stop or delay the impending decision by the BIA to approve the proposed constitutional amendments.

The SITC chairman has publically stated that he will "never give up" in pursuing this issue. He has also publically stated his desire to retake control of all historically Indian lands. The SITC is spending large sums of casino money on attorneys and back-door efforts to over-turn the Bureau of Indian Affairs 1971 denial of the reservation expansion. The wording of their recent constitutional amendment is specifically intended to elicit tacit approval by the BIA of their claimed expanded boundaries. This constant drain on County and City resources *must be stopped* once and for all. Skagit County has expended millions of dollars fighting nearly constant lawsuits from the SITC. Anacortes City is facing an insurmountable budget crisis if the SITC gain control of the tax base in the area in question. We, the homeowners face loss of property value and an uncertain future for our homes.

ESTATES AT SUMMIT PARK HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

estatesatsummitparkhoa@gmail.com

c/o 8573 Turners Bay Place
Anacortes, WA 98221

The 1988 Gaming Law was never intended to provide money for tribes to harass their local communities. Skagit County has never done anything to deserve such enmity. The SITC have been treated fairly and allowed almost complete control of their reservation. In return, they are attacking the County, the City, homeowners and businesses, and the Samish Indian Tribe. Casino profits that were intended by Congress to pull Indian Tribes out of poverty are instead being used to fund litigation to expand Tribal control over local communities. This issue is not specific to our community but is being repeated across the nation.

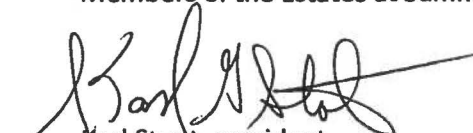


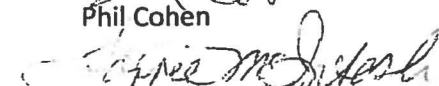
You have already received letters from Skagit County (ref (a)) and the Tesoro Refinery (ref (b)) on this subject. Add the voices of hundreds of County residents who attended a meeting a few weeks ago and voiced grave concerns on this issue.


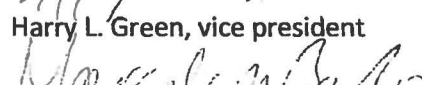

This issue will continue costing the County, City and homeowners' money, time and anxiety until it is fully and completely laid to rest. The SITC are a wealthy tribe with 7,000 acres of prime real estate for only 650 people. There is no justification for their continuous efforts to usurp control in Skagit County. Fidalgo Island property owners do not want to be forced onto the Swinomish reservation under their jurisdiction.

We are asking you, as Secretary of the Interior, and your BIA Bureau Director, Weldon Loudermilk, to reject the recent SITC constitutional amendments that transfer control of lands to the SITC.

Sincerely,

Members of the Estates at Summit Park Homeowners' Association


Karl Stout, president

Susan Lundstrom, secretary

Phil Cohen

Forrie McIntosh


Harry L. Green, vice president

Marcelyn Berlo, treasurer

Molly McIntosh

Cc:

Skagit County Board of Commissioners

Mayor Laurie Gere, City of Anacortes

Will Honea, Chief Civil Attorney, Skagit County

Weldon Loudermilk, director, Bureau of Indian Affairs