



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
Washington, DC 20240

**APR 14 2014**

The Honorable Bruce Braley  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Braley:

Thank you for your letter dated March 7, 2014, concerning the Department of the Interior's compliance with the Plain Writing Act of 2010. The Department is committed to the idea of clear and understandable documents as an indispensable element in forwarding its mission. To this end, we have implemented the Plain Writing Act of 2010 through a directive to all employees and through continued training in plain language.

Our plans for the future include continuing our efforts to improve the clarity of all written communications with the public.

Sincerely,

Fay S. Iudicello  
Director, Office of the Executive Secretariat  
and Regulatory Affairs

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515

641585

March 7, 2014

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2014 MAR 11 PM 3:05

OFFICE OF THE  
CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The Honorable Sally Jewell  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell:

Thank you for your leadership at the Department of Interior. As you may know, the *Plain Writing Act of 2010*, which passed with overwhelming bipartisan support, requires agencies to take specific action to improve the clarity of their communications with the public. The Act applies to the Department of Interior and directs it to:

- designate 1 or more senior officials to oversee implementation of the Act;
- designate 1 or more agency points-of-contact to receive and respond to related public input;
- use plain writing in new documents beginning on October 13, 2011;
- train your employees so they understand and can use plain writing;
- create and maintain a plain writing section on the Department of Interior website, accessible from the homepage, that lets you receive and respond to public input;
- publish on this plain writing webpage, by July 13, 2011, a detailed plan for complying fully with the Act; and
- publish on the plain writing webpage annually, beginning April 13, 2012, a report on your compliance with the Act.

Last summer the Center for Plain Language, a respected non-profit that helps agencies with plain language issues, analyzed agencies' progress in implementing the *Plain Writing Act*. For this second annual analysis, the Center looked not only at agencies' compliance with the administrative requirements of the Act, listed above, but also at the clarity of a sample of written products. I understand that the Department of Interior got a B on the administrative portion and a D for its documents. The Center will do a follow-up analysis in July 2014, and I know you share my desire to see Interior make more progress, especially on its written products, and get better scores this year.

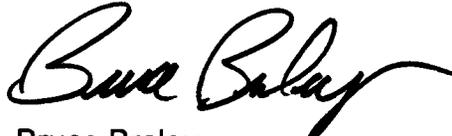
You can see the details of the Center's analysis of administrative elements at <http://centerforplainlanguage.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/Interior-deptlevelreview->

1.pdf. To discuss the document scoring, call the Center's Chair, Dr. Annetta Cheek, at 703-772 6785.

Congress and the President have both recognized that clarifying the Department of Interior's communications to the public is an essential part of making government effective and transparent. Our citizens have a right to clear communication from their government. On behalf of the people we serve, I ask that you personally ensure that the Department of Interior continues to implement the Act fully. In doing so, I ask that you send me the Department of Interior's continued plan for implementing the Act and the plan for improving the grades your agency received, especially regarding your written products.

I ask that you please reply to my letter within 10 business days with your agency's plan. If you have questions or if there is anything I can do to help you in this compliance effort, please call me so we can discuss it.

Sincerely,



Bruce Braley

Cc: Meghan Conklin, Associate Deputy Secretary

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

October 8, 2013

The Honorable Sally Jewell  
Secretary of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell,

As you know, the current government shutdown is impacting citizens all across America. Unfortunately, it has presented obstacles to veterans and other Americans attempting to visit memorials.

Last week, I shared a visit to the National World War II Memorial and Korean Memorial with veterans from Iowa. I am honored to have shared many of these trips with Iowa veterans throughout my time in Congress and I was pleased that Park Police allowed us access past the barricades and to the memorials.

I ask that you formally extend this access for veterans, their families, and all Americans to public, open-air, outdoor memorials that are intended to be open to all visitors. I understand the duty to protect property and ensure safety during the shutdown and I appreciate your work to provide contingency operations during this time. However, I ask that you move forward to remove barricades to our national treasures and work to ensure access to these sites to all visitors.

Our memorials are important pieces of American history. As you work to protect these areas, please allow access to these open spaces to all visitors.

Sincerely,



Bruce Braley  
Member of Congress

OFFICE OF THE  
EXECUTIVE SECRET

2013 OCT 17 AM 9:24

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527688



# United States Department of the Interior

## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

National Capital Region  
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20242

IN REPLY REFER TO:

November 6, 2013

Honorable Bruce Braley  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Braley:

Thank you for your inquire regarding the National Park Service (NPS) parks and memorials in the Washington metropolitan area, and their operations during the recent government shutdown. Your letter has been forwarded to me for a personal reply.

In a shutdown caused by a lapse in appropriations, all federal agencies are required by law to shut down any activities funded by annual appropriations that are not excepted by law. Because the Antideficiency Act prohibits federal agency officials from incurring financial obligations in the absence of appropriations, during the recent shutdown, the NPS was forced to close all 401 National Park units – from the Grand Canyon to the National Mall – and suspend operations. All park grounds, visitor centers, concessions and park roads, except for throughways, were required to be closed. Federal employees who violate the Act are subject to both administrative and criminal penalties. Operations for our parks and memorials would require a financial expenditure. Under the Act, federal officials may only incur obligations that are necessary for the orderly termination of an agency's function.

The shutdown caused more than 20,000 NPS employees to be furloughed. Only a small number of "excepted personnel" were allowed to remain on duty. For example, other than the United States Park Police, only 12 employees remained on duty at the National Mall out of a workforce of more than 330. Without sufficient personnel, the NPS cannot protect public health and safety or protect park resources, whether those resources are inside or outside.

The NPS takes great pride in caring for our national treasures and in welcoming millions of visitors. Making our sites unavailable to the public was painful for our staff, but necessary under the law. We hope that you will take the time to visit our National Parks now that the government has reopened.

Sincerely,

Stephen E. Whitesell  
Regional Director

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

November 15, 2011

506849

The Honorable Ken Salazar  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Salazar:

We write in support of a wilderness designation for the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as part of the Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Refuge that was released in August. We, the undersigned Members of the United States Congress, urge you to choose Alternative C and to recommend Wilderness designation for the iconic, unparalleled Coastal Plain of the Arctic Refuge.

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge was set aside fifty years ago for its "unique wildlife, wilderness, and recreational values." This unparalleled landscape, and particularly its Coastal Plain, is truly one of America's greatest wild places. It is home to polar bears, grizzly bears, muskoxen, more than one hundred thousand caribou, and hundreds of thousands of birds that gather each year from around the globe. Every year, birds that begin their lives on the Coastal Plain migrate to all 50 states and across six continents before heading back to the Arctic.

The Gwich'in people who have lived in this region for thousands of years rely on the Porcupine caribou herd, whose calving and nursery grounds are in the Arctic Refuge's Coastal Plain. More than 1,000 scientists wrote to Congress a few years ago to affirm that oil development would threaten this herd. In their letter, they wrote "Simply put, development of the Coastal Plain of the Arctic Refuge would likely have significant detrimental effects on this international herd. These findings were supported in the National Academies of Science in their 2003 report, *The Cumulative Environmental Effects of Oil And Gas Activities on Alaska's North Slope.*" Oil and gas leasing, exploration, development, and production, including seismic activity, support infrastructure or any geological surveys are entirely incompatible with the purposes of the Refuge, and would permanently harm the values for which the Arctic Refuge was established.

The Coastal Plain is the biological heart of the Refuge. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service calls the coastal plain the "center for wildlife activity" in the Refuge. Allowing drilling in the Arctic Refuge would irreparably disrupt this important ecosystem and forever destroy one of our last great wild places.

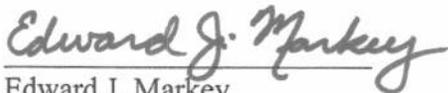
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2011 NOV 16 AM 9:10

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is a pristine landscape with values unlike any other public lands in our nation. Its wilderness, ecological integrity, wildlife, recreational opportunities, and Alaska Native cultural and subsistence values are unmatched. Therefore, we urge to you to adopt Alternative C in the Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and to recommend designating the Coastal Plain of the Arctic Refuge as Wilderness.

Sincerely,



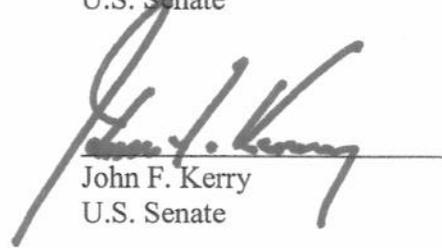
Edward J. Markey  
U.S. House of Representatives



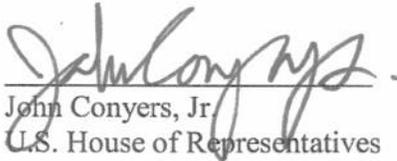
Joseph I. Lieberman  
U.S. Senate



Christopher Van Hollen  
U.S. House of Representatives



John F. Kerry  
U.S. Senate



John Conyers, Jr.  
U.S. House of Representatives



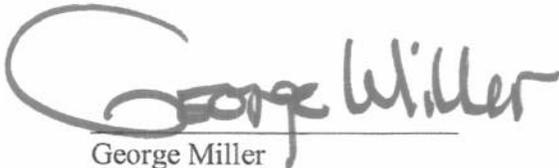
Richard J. Durbin  
U.S. Senate



Rosa L. DeLauro  
U.S. House of Representatives



Tom Harkin  
U.S. Senate



George Miller  
U.S. House of Representatives



Sheldon Whitehouse  
U.S. Senate



Lois Capps  
U.S. House of Representatives



Ron Wyden  
U.S. Senate



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Maurice Hinchey  
U.S. of Representatives



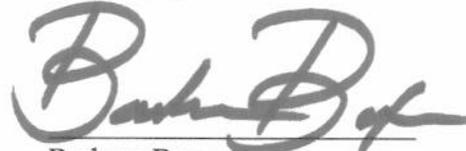
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Benjamin L. Cardin  
U.S. Senate



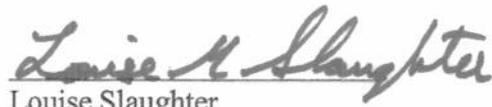
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Raul M. Grijalva  
U.S. House of Representatives



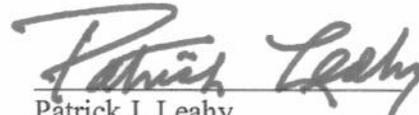
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Barbara Boxer  
U.S. Senate



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Louise Slaughter  
U.S. House of Representatives



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Patrick J. Leahy  
U.S. Senate



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Gerald E. "Gerry" Connolly  
U.S. House of Representatives



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Richard Blumenthal  
U.S. Senate



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Betty McCollum  
U.S. House of Representatives



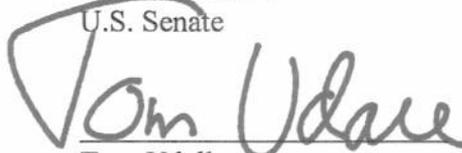
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Maria Cantwell  
U.S. Senate



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Steve Israel  
U.S. House of Representatives



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Tom Udall  
U.S. Senate



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James Moran  
U.S. House of Representatives



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Michael F. Bennet  
U.S. Senate



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Kathy Castor  
U.S. House of Representatives



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Mark Udall  
U.S. Senate



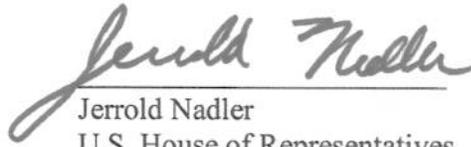
Robert E. Andrews  
U.S. House of Representatives



Sam Farr  
U.S. House of Representatives



John Olver  
U.S. House of Representatives



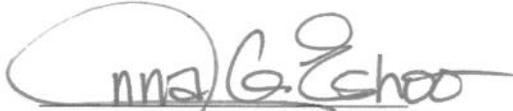
Jerrold Nadler  
U.S. House of Representatives



Earl Blumenauer  
U.S. House of Representatives



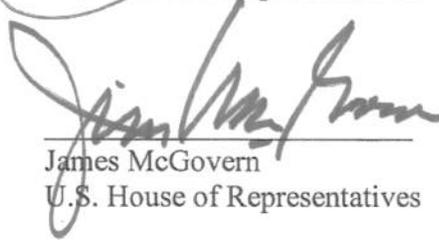
José E. Serrano  
U.S. House of Representatives



Anna G. Eshoo  
U.S. House of Representatives



Dennis J. Kucinich  
U.S. House of Representatives



James McGovern  
U.S. House of Representatives



Linda Sanchez  
U.S. House of Representatives



Laura Richardson  
U.S. House of Representatives



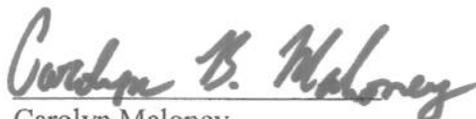
Judy Chu  
U.S. House of Representatives



Niki Tsongas  
U.S. House of Representatives



Martin T. Heinrich  
U.S. House of Representatives



Carolyn Maloney  
U.S. House of Representatives



Rush D. Holt  
U.S. House of Representatives



Maxine Waters  
U.S. House of Representatives



Jim Langevin  
U.S. House of Representatives



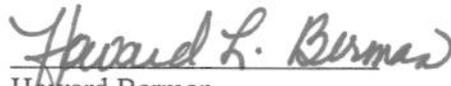
Jesse L. Jackson, Jr.  
U.S. House of Representatives



Jackie Speier  
U.S. House of Representatives



Bruce L. Braley  
U.S. House of Representatives



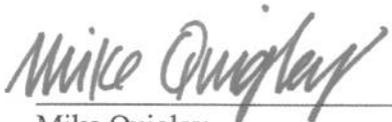
Howard Berman  
U.S. House of Representatives



Mazie K. Hirono  
U.S. House of Representatives



Mike Honda  
U.S. House of Representatives



Mike Quigley  
U.S. House of Representatives



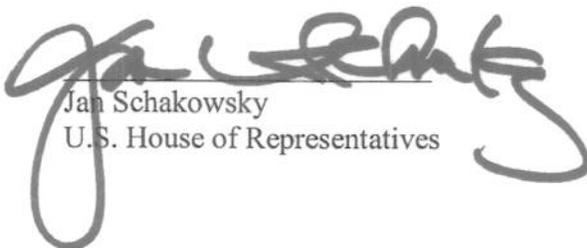
Chellie Pingree  
U.S. House of Representatives



Adam Schiff  
U.S. House of Representatives



Allyson J. Schwartz  
U.S. House of Representatives



Jan Schakowsky  
U.S. House of Representatives



Keith Ellison  
U.S. House of Representatives



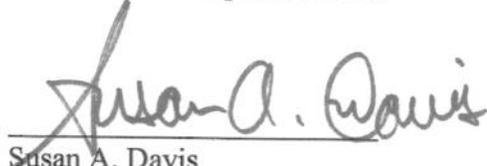
Steven Rothman  
U.S. House of Representatives



Barbara Lee  
U.S. House of Representatives



Alcee L. Hastings  
U.S. House of Representatives



Susan A. Davis  
U.S. House of Representatives



Jared Polis  
U.S. House of Representatives



Pete Fortney Stark  
U.S. House of Representatives



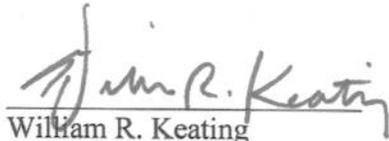
Ted Deutch  
U.S. House of Representatives



David Price  
U.S. House of Representatives



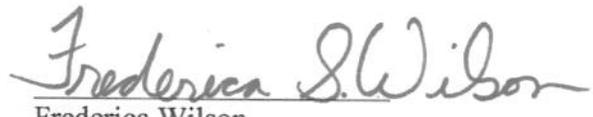
Dale E. Kildee  
U.S. House of Representatives



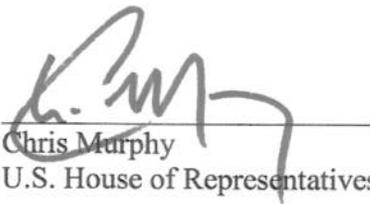
William R. Keating  
U.S. House of Representatives



Lloyd Doggett  
U.S. House of Representatives



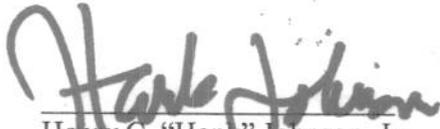
Frederica Wilson  
U.S. House of Representatives



Chris Murphy  
U.S. House of Representatives



Jim McDermott  
U.S. House of Representatives

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Hank Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
U.S. House of Representatives

BRUCE L. BRALEY  
1ST DISTRICT, IOWA

WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE

1019 Longworth Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
(202) 225-2911  
Fax (202) 225-6666

<http://www.house.gov/braley>

ENERGY AND  
COMMERCE COMMITTEE  
VICE-CHAIRMAN, OVERSIGHT  
AND INVESTIGATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

POPULIST CAUCUS  
CHAIRMAN

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

November 3, 2009

WATERLOO DISTRICT OFFICE

501 Sycamore St., Suite 610  
Waterloo, IA 50703  
Phone: (319) 287-3233  
Fax: (319) 287-5104

DAVENPORT DISTRICT OFFICE

209 W. 4TH ST., SUITE 104  
DAVENPORT, IA 52801  
PHONE: (563) 323-5988  
FAX: (563) 323-5231

DUBUQUE DISTRICT OFFICE

350 W. 6TH ST., SUITE 222  
Dubuque, IA 52001  
Phone: (563) 557-7789  
Fax: (563) 557-1324

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

Dear Secretary Salazar:

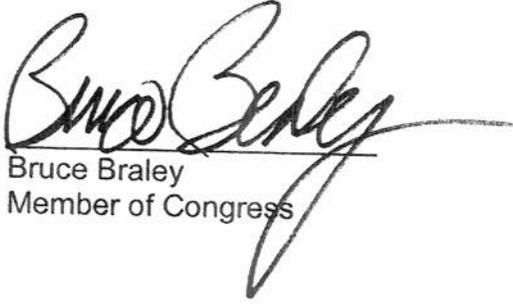
Thank you for your leadership at the Department of Interior. I write to express my concern over recent reports that the Department of the Interior, and the current Administration, are considering the relaxation of current policies that limit the establishment of tribal casinos on land that is not part of any reservation. Consistent with the approach of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA), your Department has traditionally recognized that "off-reservation" casinos are appropriate in very rare circumstances. This was most recently expressed in guidelines issued on January 3, 2008. Several important reasons underlie this policy:

- Allowing a tribal casino on non-reservation land may disrupt a local community that never anticipated a gambling development in its midst. For more than a decade, many local groups in numerous states have tenaciously opposed proposals for off-reservation casinos.
- Off-reservation casinos may also disrupt the economic development policies of state governments that have approved non-tribal gaming facilities. After state governments and private companies have developed a local casino market, the insertion of a tribal casino may divert revenues away from state and local governments. The net result is little (if any) increase in economic development for the community and a siphoning-off of public revenues that must be replaced with new taxes.
- Off-reservation casinos can be developed without any regard for state and local land-use or environmental requirements.

- Finally, federal policy in implementing statutes like IGRA should remain consistent in the absence of some demonstration that the current policy is unsuccessful. I am aware of no broad public dissatisfaction with the Interior Department's policy on off-reservation gaming. Indeed, it is supported by many tribes, as well as non-tribal groups.

I'm concerned by the recent reports that the Department of the Interior is considering changes to policies that have limited off-reservation casinos to very few situations. Under IGRA, the tribal gaming industry has flourished and brought new opportunities to many tribes, but that prosperity depends on broad public acceptance of tribal gaming. A spread of off-reservation casinos would risk the reputation of the tribal gaming industry and is likely to stir up public opposition to IGRA. I urge you to consider carefully the consequences of such a change. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,



Bruce Braley  
Member of Congress

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT  
OFFICE OF THE

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**Fw: Letter to Secretary Salazar**  
Adrienne D Perry to: Susan Long  
Cc: Darren Pete, lizzie\_marsters

11/03/2009 11:11 AM

Hey Susan:

Could you add this letter to the system? Thanks.

Darren and Lizzie - FYI...

Adrienne D. Perry  
Assistant to the Director  
Office of Congressional & Legislative Affairs  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20240  
(202) 208-7264 - Office  
(202) 208-5533 - Fax

----- Forwarded by Adrienne D Perry/OCL/OS/DOI on 11/03/2009 11:10 AM -----

From: "Goldsmith, Robert" <Robert.Goldsmith@mail.house.gov>  
To: <adrienne\_perry@ios.doi.gov>  
Date: 11/03/2009 09:54 AM  
Subject: Letter to Secretary Salazar

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Adrienne,

Please see the attached letter from Congressman Bruce Braley. Please let me know if you have any questions.

<<Salazar Letter on Off-Reservation Gaming Final Signed 110309.pdf>>

Best,

Rob Goldsmith

Legislative Assistant

Congressman Bruce Braley

202-225-2911

[Robert.Goldsmith@mail.house.gov](mailto:Robert.Goldsmith@mail.house.gov)

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Salazar Letter on Off-Reservation Gaming Final Signed 110309.pdf



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
Washington, DC 20240

NOV 18 2009

The Honorable Bruce Braley  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Braley:

Thank you for your letter to Secretary Ken Salazar, dated November 3, 2009, in which you express opposition to taking off-reservation lands into trust for gaming purposes and express support for the January 2008 Guidance Memorandum.

As you may know, the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act contains a general prohibition against gaming on lands acquired in trust after October 17, 1988, but provides several exceptions. The general exception is that gaming may be conducted on after-acquired land if the Secretary determines gaming on the land would be in the best interest of the tribe and its members, and not detrimental to the surrounding community, including nearby Indian tribes, and the governor of the state concurs in the determination. Please note this determination has been made by the Secretary only five times in the last 21 years.

The Department is undertaking a careful review of the Indian gaming policy, including the criteria outlined in the Guidance Memorandum. While we are reviewing this issue, your comments will be carefully considered. Thank you for your interest in this matter and please continue to keep me informed of your views.

Sincerely,

Larry Echo Hawk  
Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs