

# COUNTY OF EL DORADO

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August 7, 2012

The Honorable Isadore Hall III  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0052

**RE: Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians Tribal-State Gaming Compact Amendments**

Dear Assemblyman Hall:

The County of El Dorado Board of Supervisors **SUPPORTS** the Amended and Restated Tribal State Compact for the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians ("Tribe") that is before you and we urge quick Legislative approval of this compact amendment.

The Tribe's Red Hawk Casino has had a positive impact in the County of El Dorado with minimal environmental impact. The Tribe's Casino provides positive employment opportunities from its well managed gaming facility where over 1,500 employees have sorely needed jobs. With most of the visitors coming from off the Tribe's lands and from outside our County there is a net positive economic impact to us through the Casino's payroll of \$50 million annually and the secondary impacts of the purchasing power that comes with that income. Furthermore, the location of the Red Hawk Casino helps capture entertainment dollars that would otherwise go out of state.

The Tribe is a good partner and we have found many ways to benefit far more than the Tribal members of our county. The Tribe has made significant contributions to the County of El Dorado to mitigate the impacts of their resort to its neighbors, fund public safety improvements and other public improvements. In addition, the Tribe pays a County revenue payment annually. These contributions total more than \$9 million a year. The Tribe's Shingle Springs Health and Wellness Center also provides physician health care, dental care and mental health services. The Tribe extends care to whoever comes to their clinic, Tribal member or otherwise. This is a genuine community asset.

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We are aware that due to previous compact amendments and difficulty with the finances of the facility, the Tribe's gaming enterprise is not generating funds the Tribe needs to provide services to its members. The proposed compact before you allows changes that will restructure and stabilize the finances of the Tribe's Casino. The Tribe will begin to experience the benefit intended by Indian gaming while still maintaining the strong partnership with the county and the community which has served us all so well.

We urge you to approve the proposed Compact Amendments and support its passage in the Legislature. The proposed compact makes good business sense, it keeps a viable facility in place for the benefit of the County of El Dorado and it represents simply a fair policy for both the State and Tribe.

Sincerely,

John R. Knight Chair  
Board of Supervisors  
County of El Dorado