



**DANNEL P. MALLOY**  
GOVERNOR  
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

August 20, 2013

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

Dear Secretary Jewell,

I write to express grave concern about the Department's discussion draft of potential changes to the Part 83 process for acknowledging federally recognized tribes. Connecticut's Attorney General will soon submit formal comments on behalf of the state detailing our concerns, and this letter is not intended to serve as Connecticut's formal submission. Rather, in advance of our substantive comments, I wish to emphasize to you the importance of this issue.

While Connecticut's concerns can likely be addressed by certain technical changes, promulgation of the regulation as drafted would have a profound and, we believe, unique effect on Connecticut. By significantly weakening the criteria for acknowledgment, the proposed changes would have the effect of reversing prior acknowledgment decisions for reasons that were expressly rejected in those decisions. The unjustified reversal of those acknowledgment decisions would be devastating for Connecticut, likely reviving land claims that could cloud title to property held by large numbers of Connecticut residents. Such land claims could then be used as leverage to compel the approval of additional mega-casinos in our state.

During your Department's deliberations on this matter, I urge you to consider the profound and unwarranted effect of such changes on the State of Connecticut.

Thank you for your attention to my concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Malloy".

Dannel P. Malloy  
Governor

cc: The Honorable Kevin Washburn - Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs  
Connecticut Congressional Delegation