



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

WASHINGTON

January 23, 1992

Honorable Daniel Denney, Sr.
Chairman, Santee Sioux Tribal Council
Route 2
Niebrara, Nebraska 68760

Dear Chairman Denney:

I have reviewed the Santee Sioux Tribe's application for preliminary approval of a fee-to-trust conversion of land to be acquired out of state for gaming. The tribe, in partnership with Harvey's Resort Hotel Casino, would purchase certain property in Council Bluffs, Iowa, and has requested that three acres of the property to be placed in trust for the tribe.

The documents transmitted indicate that this may be an excellent economic development proposal for the Santee Sioux Tribe. However, the Sac and Fox Tribes, the Governor of Iowa, and members of the affected community have stated their strong opposition to the project.

After several meetings and consultations between and among representatives of the Santee Sioux Tribe, Harvey's Resort Hotel Casino, Central Office Bureau of Indian Affairs officials, and myself, I have decided to deny the request for approval of the land acquisition. The proposed venture would place the Santee Sioux, a Nebraska Tribe, in direct competition with the tribes in Iowa. I am unable to ignore the interests of the Iowa tribes in favor of those of one Nebraska tribe. In addition, the National Indian Gaming Regulatory Act requires the concurrence of the Governor of Iowa for any such acquisition and, as already noted, the Governor opposes the acquisition.

Unfortunately, I cannot approve your proposed acquisition under the present set of circumstances. However, I wish you success in your efforts to promote and achieve economic development for the Santee Sioux Tribe.

Sincerely,