

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
STATE OF MONTANA

BRIAN SCHWEITZER  
GOVERNOR



JOHN BOHLINGER  
LT. GOVERNOR

July 30, 2009

Mr. George T. Skibine  
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy  
and Economic Development  
Office of Indian Gaming Management  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: Concurrence Letter  
Northern Cheyenne Tribe, Section 20 gaming application

Dear Mr. Skibine,

On October 28, 2008, your office issued a two-part determination, pursuant to the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, 25 U.S.C. § 2719(b)(1)(A), finding that gaming on trust lands of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe – located to the south of their reservation in Montana – would be in the best interest of the Tribe and its members, and would not be detrimental to the surrounding community.

As Governor of the State of Montana, this letter constitutes my concurrence in your determination of October 28, 2008. My concurrence is required under the Act prior to any gaming taking place on those lands. 25 U.S.C. § 2719(b)(1)(A); 25 C.F.R. Part 292.13 (d). The trust lands proposed for gaming comprise 160 acres, located in Big Horn County, and are described as follows:

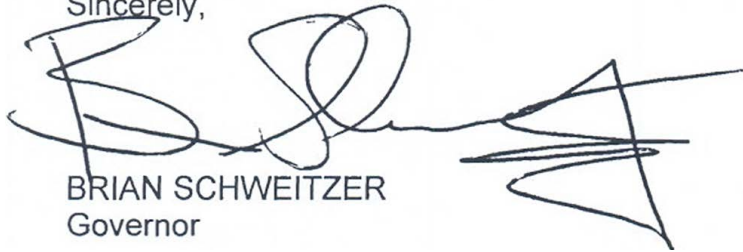
T.8 S., R.40 E. P.M.M.  
Sec. 23, SW ¼ NE ¼, N ½ SE ¼  
Sec. 24, NW ¼ SW ¼

A Class III gaming compact, between the State of Montana and the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, is in effect until June 3, 2017. However, the compact is limited to gaming within the Reservation as established by the Executive Orders of November 26, 1884, and March 19, 1900. Therefore, prior to any gaming occurring on the Tongue River trust parcels, the existing compact must be amended by mutual agreement of the State and the Tribe. Any remaining issues with regard to the scope of gaming or the operation of the facility will be addressed in the compact amendments.

Attached to this concurrence letter is a Finding of No Significant Impact from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, indicating that the environmental assessment of the proposed project did not identify any adverse effects that would threaten a violation of federal, state, or local laws designed to protect the environment.

Given the unique conditions of this project, I concur in the Secretary's determination of October 28, 2008. I wish the Northern Cheyenne Tribe all the best as it moves forward with this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Schweitzer', followed by a stylized flourish.

BRIAN SCHWEITZER  
Governor

cc: President Leroy Spang  
Michael Mason  
Edward Parisian  
Rick Ask  
Sarah Bond