



California Coalition for Rural Housing

717 K Street, Suite 400
Sacramento, CA 95814
916-443-4448 FAX 916-447-0458
www.calruralhousing.org

June 17, 2020

Senator William Dodd
senator.dodd@senate.ca.gov
State Capitol, Room 4032
Sacramento, CA 95814-4900

Re: OPPOSE SCA 6 (Dodd) – As Amended

Dear Senator Dodd

In solidarity with our rural tribal partners, the California Coalition for Rural Housing (CCRH) must regrettably oppose SCA 6, which would effectively repeal exclusive tribal gaming rights, and threaten tribes' ability to support their own governments, while helping neighboring cities and counties. CCRH is a statewide association of community-based affordable housing development organizations, including Tribes and Tribally-Designated Housing Entities.

We have proudly partnered with Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation for the past three years to build the capacity of disadvantaged tribes throughout Rural California. In that time, the Tribe has contributed generously to and partnered with over 500 nonprofits, school districts, community-based organizations, and foundations. In Yolo County, alone, this support has totaled over \$40 million, with an emphasis on underserved and vulnerable communities. Supporting tribal sovereignty and gaming rights means supporting rural communities and organizations like ours in California.

Tribes fill the gaps in many rural communities by supporting nonprofits like ours. So, we need tribal economies to remain strong. SCA 6 would reverse the historic reckoning of past injustices, reinforced by Governor Newsom's apology in 2019, all in the midst of a devastating pandemic and economic downturn. Tribes too are dealing with the effects of a pandemic that required them to close their casinos, upon which they rely for revenues. Now is not the time to further destabilize tribal economies, which brings broader ramifications.

As we face the greatest public health crisis in a century, with all governments reeling from economic devastation, we need to uplift our historically marginalized communities, not hinder them. We stand proudly with tribes throughout our state to oppose SCA 6.

Respectfully,

Robert Wiener,
Executive Director