

NeighborWorks®
HomeOwnership Center
SACRAMENTO REGION

June 16, 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

On behalf of NeighborWorks Homeownership Center Sacramento Region, a non-profit building affordable homes for low income families, and providing homeownership counseling and foreclosure prevention in 11 counties in the region, I write to oppose SCA-6 (Dodd), a measure that would effectively repeal exclusive tribal gaming rights, and threaten tribes' ability to support their own governments, while helping neighboring cities and counties, all in the midst of a devastating pandemic and economic downturn.

We have proudly partnered with Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation for the past three years to serve this region. In that time, the Tribe has donated nearly \$800,000 to support our mutual self-help housing development programs and to increase the participation of rural communities in improving their neighborhoods. We are not the only recipients of their partnership and generosity; to date, Yocha Dehe has partnered with over 500 non-profits, 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 throughout California.

Tribes fill in the gaps in many rural communities by supporting non-profits like ours so we need tribal economies to remain strong. They 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 Yocha Dehe, and tribes throughout California, to oppose SCA 6.

Respectfully,


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