



City of Spokane

February 27, 2012

Dr. B.J. Howerton
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Northwest Regional Office
911 NE 11th Avenue
Portland, OR 97232

Dear Dr. Howerton:

As the newly elected Mayor of the City of Spokane, I welcome the opportunity to work with you in establishing a positive working relationship between our offices. I offer this letter in opposition to the Spokane Tribe of Indians' West Plains Casino and Mixed-Use Development project, and I ask that you include this letter in record as my response. Please be advised that if there was an earlier response, this letter replaces and supersedes that response.

I have identified three areas of concern for the City of Spokane associated with the proposed West Plains Casino and Mixed-Use Development project: (1) Threat of encroachment upon Fairchild Air Force Base, impacting training, base operations, readiness, and ability to accommodate future missions; (2) Potential drain of tourist and other business dollars out of the City of Spokane; (3) Negative impact on local tax revenue, impairing the City's ability to maintain basic infrastructure and provide essential services to its residents.

First, given the incalculable benefits provided to our community and the Nation by Fairchild Air Force Base, any threat to Fairchild represents an unacceptable risk for the region's economy, the City of Spokane, and its residents.

Second, I am concerned that the development of a large casino resort just outside the City's limits will drain tourist and other business dollars out of the City. The loss of economic activity in the City that would follow the opening of the Spokane Tribe's project would have a direct negative impact on businesses located within the City.

Finally, the City of Spokane derives its revenue from three sources: property tax, utilities tax, and local sales tax. A drain on local sales tax dollars would ultimately impair the City's ability to maintain basic infrastructure and provide essential services (police, fire, and the like) to its residents. In an environment where the City already is required to trim its budget and expenditures on essential functions, a further hit would have significant negative impacts on the City.

I hope that you will not hesitate to contact me at 509-625-6250 if I can answer any questions you might have, and I appreciate your time and attention to our concerns.

Sincerely,

David A. Condon
Mayor

"Spokane – Near Nature, Near Perfect"

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