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November 17, 2019

Honorable David Bernhardt
Secretary of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Re: Redding Rancheria Proposal for Tribal Land and Casino Relocation
Redding Rancheria
2000 Redding Rancheria Rd
Redding, CA 96001

Dear Secretary Bernhardt,

I write this letter of support for the Redding Rancheria (henceforth Rancheria) located in Redding, California. I am a family physician working in Shasta and Trinity County, battling the opioid epidemic, and am considered a regional expert in opioid abuse. I work directly with the Rancheria's healthcare clinics.

There has been a proposal made in order to change locations of the tribal casino. Through my experience and capacity as a contracted physician working directly with the Rancheria, I have firsthand knowledge of how much of a pillar they are in our community. They have been pivotal in addressing the current opiate crisis we have faced through their Recovery/Suboxone program and a bridge program from our local hospital, Mercy Medical Center. Not only does this program help our local citizens from abstaining from heroin use, thus decreasing their chances of mortality by up to ninety percent, but it also helps decrease our homeless population by patients having an ability to find stable housing and gainful employment during their sobriety, in addition to decreased medical cost burden.

With the change of locations of the Casino, this would be a boost to our local economy in terms of gainful employment, both in increased permanent and temporary jobs, in addition to a more meaningful life to those working on the project and to our community as a whole. A dominant aspect of sobriety is finding meaning in life, including working and being a productive member of society; with the construction of the casino, I can foresee my patients having a prompt and swift road to Recovery. If you would like to discuss the proposal any further, in terms of my capacity, please feel free to reach my personal cell phone number or via e-mail.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mohammed T. Rezai, DO