



June 18, 2008

Member of Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Member of Congress:

On behalf of Concerned Women for America's (CWA) 500,000 members nationwide, I would like to express our concern regarding H.R. 4115 and H.R. 2176.

The purpose of these bills is to provide for and approve the authorization of land transactions in Michigan. However, the effect of such a provision would inevitably make it possible for the establishment of off-reservation Indian casinos.

Historically, Congress has never authorized the establishment and operation of off-reservation casinos. H.R. 4115 and H.R. 2176 would override current law in the Indian Gambling Regulatory Act (IGRA), setting a dangerous precedent authorizing the settlement of certain land claims for both the Bay Mills Indian Community and the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians to build casinos hundreds of miles away from their reservations.

These bills not only undermine current law pertaining to off-reservation gambling, but they also impede the Department of Interior from its procedural and oversight responsibilities, such as evaluating the impact of a land transfer before it is approved.

It is important for members of Congress to recognize the negative impact on families of legislation which expands casino gambling. Recent studies have shown that more women gamble than men. Women who are problem gamblers have a two to three times higher incidence of substance dependence than other women according to one report. A Harvard Medical School report found that gambling disorders were "significantly more prevalent among young people."

Casino gambling poses a number of dangers for our culture in general and the overall well-being of families in particular. We need to be vigilant in finding ways to strengthen families in our

states, including current and continuing efforts to oppose legalized gambling, casino or otherwise, which undermines family stability.

CWA opposes H.R. 4115 and H.R. 2176 and will score these votes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wendy Wright". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end of the name.

Wendy Wright
President
Concerned Women for America