



June 18, 2008

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

Dear Member of Congress:

On behalf of Family Research Council (FRC) and the thousands of families we represent, I want to encourage you to vote against the bills offered by Rep. Bart Stupak (H.R. 2176) and Rep. John Dingell (H.R. 4115) to amend the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA).

The Congressional Research Service (CRS) has said that these bills “would ratify land claim settlement agreements and authorize trust acquisition of land in Michigan which would qualify for gaming.” This would set a dangerous precedent by authorizing two Michigan tribes, the Bay Mills Indian Community and the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, to exploit the IGRA and build two casinos located over 350 miles from their respective reservations. Congress has never before authorized such a wide expansion of Indian gambling.

The Department of the Interior is opposed to this legislation because it circumvents the Department’s well-established procedures for evaluating the impact of a land transfer before it is approved. Moreover, not one federal government agency has validated the land claim of The Bay Mills Tribe. In addition, they have been unable to demonstrate valid ties to the land where they want to build the casino in both the federal and state court.

Further people of Michigan voted in a 2004 statewide referendum to strictly limit the expansion of casino gaming in the state. These bills expressly override voters’ desire to limit the negative impact of casino gambling in their communities.

If brought to the floor, FRC will score the vote on these bills in our scorecard for the Second Session of the 110th Congress.

Sincerely,

Thomas McClusky
Vice President for Government Affairs