

TAKE ACTION NOW!

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ENDS JUNE 9

SHAWNEE APPLICATION FOR TRIBAL LAND IN OKLAHOMA CITY

Recently, the Shawnee Nation announced the purchase of land just North of Remington Park in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. They have publicly stated their intentions are to have the 104 acres designated as Tribal Trust land and build a major casino there. The decision to take land into trust will be determined by the Secretary of the Interior in Washington, D.C.

If you want to continue racing at Remington Park, you MUST write and encourage the Secretary of the Interior, Eastern Oklahoma Regional Office of the Department of the Interior Indian Affairs and the office of Governor Brad Henry asking them NOT to approve the Shawnee Application. A form letter is provided for your convenience. Please fax letters to as many of the following contacts as you can BEFORE JUNE 1.

Please encourage your friends to send letters, too!

PRIMARY CONTACTS:

Secretary Dirk Kempthorne
Department of the Interior
Fax: (202) 208-5048

Governor Brad Henry
Fax: (405) 521-3353
www.governor.state.ok.us

**Bureau of Indian Affairs,
Eastern Oklahoma Region
Eastern Oklahoma Regional Office
P.O. Box 8002
Muskogee, OK 74402**

ADDITIONAL CONTACTS:

Oklahoma City Mayor Mick Cornett
Fax: (405) 297-3759
mayor@okc.gov

Oklahoma Senator Tom Coburn
Fax: (202) 224-6008
www.coburn.senate.gov

Oklahoma Senator James Inhofe
Fax: (202) 228-0380
www.inhofe.senate.gov

Congressman Tom Cole
Fax: (202) 225-3512
www.house.gov/cole

Congresswoman Mary Fallin
Fax: (202) 226-1463
www.fallin.house.gov

Congressman John Sullivan
Fax: (202) 225-9187
www.sullivan.house.gov

Congressman Dan Boren
Fax: (202) 225-3038
www.house.gov/boren

Congressman Frank Lucas
Fax: (202) 225-8698
www.house.gov/lucas



Oklahoma Quarter Horse Racing Association
(405) 216-0440 • oqhra@aol.com • www.OQHRA.com
www.OklahomaRacingInfo.com • www.youtube.com/OklahomaQHRacing

Return name and contact information:

Date:

Recipient name and contact information:

Dear _____,

Recently, the Shawnee Nation announced the purchase of land just North of Remington Park Racetrack and Casino in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. They have publicly stated their intentions are to have the 104 acres designated as Tribal Trust land and build a major casino there. This letter is in opposition to the tribe's request.

If the land is put in Tribal Trust, it will place Remington Park at a significant disadvantage as tribal casinos do not have limitations on type or quantity of games offered at their location. In addition, the tribe will not be required to contribute to horse racing purses as Remington Park does, thus creating a **devastating effect on purse levels**. Remington Park represents nearly 40% of the Quarter Horse, Paint and Appaloosa racing in the state, as well as nearly 50% of the purses paid to horsemen racing these breeds.

In addition, the operation of a tribal casino located so close to Remington Park will mean a **costly reduction in the money generated for education**. In 2007, more than 76% of the total revenue from gaming earmarked for education in Oklahoma came from gaming at Remington Park.

A tribal casino and hotel will add nothing to the tax base for the school district, the city or the county as tribal operations on tribal lands would be exempt from those sorts of taxes. However, it will increase the cost of services provided by city and county law enforcement, add additional children to the districts school system, etc.

Oklahoma voters, with their vote of support for the horse racing industry and Oklahoma school children, **approved a very restrictive expansion of gaming in 2004**. That support was based in part on the public's understanding of where gaming would AND would NOT be permitted. Additional casinos (*in the Oklahoma City market or any other location in the state that were not previously designated as tribal lands*) were neither permitted, nor contemplated at the time the state question was approved by voters.

Approval of the Shawnee petition for the target location will, in all probability, create a financial disaster for Remington Park and horse racing and breeding industry in Oklahoma. In addition, it will certainly result in the loss of millions of dollars in educational funding for Oklahoma schools. Any measure that will negatively impact the ability of Remington Park to generate those levels of revenue for the state can not be good public policy.

Please do not approve the Shawnee request to place the location in Tribal Trust.

Sincerely,