

INFORMATION FOR WRITING LETTERS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

We are asking people to write letters to the Bureau of Indian Affairs and/or the Department of Interior to protest land into trust in Middleboro. It is always best for people to write their own content rather than using a form letter which would be disregarded anyway. We at CasinoFacts thought it might be helpful to provide you with some information for you to keep in mind while writing your letters.

-First and foremost: You need to remember that we are not arguing against Indians in our community, so please do not attack the Mashpee Wampanoag Indian tribe. The tribe is only trying to look out for its best interests. And we are doing the same by protecting our community against the proposed casino.

-The Middleboro land is being taken into trust **specifically** for the tribe's backers to build a casino. There is no other intention for this land.

-The tribe is asking Department of Interior to issue a reservation proclamation making the land in Middleboro their initial reservation. This would make Middleboro their "home base" and the land in Mashpee their "secondary" community. The Mashpee Wampanoag Indian Tribe got their federal recognition by providing proof of their established community *in Mashpee*. It is not right that the Middleboro land be taken into trust to satisfy the needs of the casino developers.

-Casinos do not improve the economy! Please refer to the CasinoFacts website (click on "Research") to find information on the effects of a casino. In particular, please look at the Grinolds & Mustard study.

CasinoFacts, as an organization, is not making a case against gambling. However, someone's right to gamble shouldn't supersede the right of our citizens to live in a safe and family-friendly environment.

CasinoFacts does not claim that gambling is an immoral activity. However, we do question the morality of state and local governments seeking to fund their budgets at the expense of their most vulnerable citizens. In their effort to bring casinos to our community, they are neglecting the fundamental obligation of government – to protect its citizens.

We thank you for taking the time to write letters opposing the land in Middleboro being taken into trust by the Department of Interior. Please mail your letters to the following people:

Secretary of the Interior, Dirk Kempthorne
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20240

Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs, Carl Artman
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20240

We are currently seeking people to join and/or provide information to our Environmental Study Group to help us prepare for the impact hearing on March 4th. If you would like to help, please see a volunteer for the sign up sheet. If you have any experience with Environmental affairs, please note that with your contact information.

Please check our website for updates on activities and dates for future meetings.
We are at www.casinofacts.org.