



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

OCT 01 1992

Honorable Leonard C. Burch
Chairman, Southern Ute Indian Tribe
P.O. Box 737
Ignacio, Colorado 81137

Dear Chairman Burch:

On August 17, 1992, we received the Southern Ute Indian Tribe - State of Colorado Gaming Compact.

We have undertaken a substantive review of the Compact and the accompanying Appendices to insure compliance with the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA) and conclude that it is in conformance with the IGRA. Therefore, pursuant to my delegated authority and Section 11 of the IGRA, we approve the compact. The compact shall take effect when notice of our approval, pursuant to Section 11(d)(3)(B) of the IGRA, is published in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

Please be advised that although we have approved the Gaming Code as required by Article VII, Section 1 (e) & (k) of the Constitution of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, the Code will have to be reviewed and approved by the Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC) in the near future. On July 8, 1992, the NIGC's proposed regulations to govern the approval of Class II and Class III gaming ordinances were published in the FEDERAL REGISTER. Once the regulations become final and are in effect, we expect the NIGC will request submission of existing ordinances for review and approval in accordance with the standards contained in the final regulations. It may be useful for the Tribe to review the proposed regulations to insure that the Tribe's Code(s) are consistent with or do not otherwise conflict with NIGC requirements.

We wish the Tribe and the State success in this economic partnership.

Sincerely,

William D. Bettenberg

Acting Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs

Enclosures

**Identical Letter to: Honorable Roy Romer
Governor of Colorado
State Capitol
Denver, Colorado 80202**

**cc: Albuquerque Area Director w/copy of approved compact
Supt., Southern Ute Agency w/copy of approved compact
National Indian Gaming Commission w/copy of approved compact
Penny Coleman, SOL
Santa Fe Field Solicitor w/copy of approved compact
Colorado United States Attorney w/copy of approved compact**