

Ex-governors oppose private casino ballot measures

(AP) — Three former Oregon governors are joining the current chief executive in opposing a proposal to build the state's first nontribal casino.

Republican Vic Atiyeh and Democrats Barbara Roberts and Ted Kulongoski implored voters to oppose Measures 82 and 83, which would allow developers to build a casino in Portland's eastern suburbs. Current Gov. John Kitzhaber filmed a television commercial last week urging a "no" vote.

The governors warned in a news conference that a new casino would increase crime in the area while harming Indian tribes that operate Oregon's nine existing casinos

and rely on the profits to pay for social services such as housing, health care and education.

Casino proponents tout a fun destination that they say would create jobs and generate money for parks, police and schools.

"Don't be fooled by the multimillion-dollar TV ads," said Roberts, who was governor from 1991 to 1995. "This is not about water features or movie theaters or farmers markets or fine dining. This is about money, big money—gambling money, and gaming profits."

Oregon's tribal casinos don't bring the same burdens as private casinos because they're located on remote

"This isn't going to solve Oregon's financial problems..."

Former Gov. Kulongoski

tribal land, not in the middle of a big city, Roberts said.

Casino proponents have said that the issue will be decided by voters, not by politicians.

"The opposition campaign is funded by Oregon's current casino establishment. It's not surprising they would be opposed to competition," said Stacey Dycus, campaign manager for the casino proponents.

Both sides have spent liberally on television commercials touting the benefits and drawbacks of expanding gambling in Oregon.

Casinos are currently illegal in Oregon, but the state's ban doesn't extend to Indian reservations. Tribes run casinos on their land under federal law, with the state's permission.

Voters shouldn't look toward the casino's profits as the solution to struggling government budgets, Kulongoski said.

"This isn't going to solve Oregon's financial problems," Kulongoski said.

Measure 82 would change the state constitution to allow gambling in Oregon, with

some restrictions, if each casino is approved in a statewide vote and in the community where it would be located. Measure 83 would specifically authorize the casino in Wood Village with up to 3,500 slot machines and 150 tables, and require that 25 percent of revenue go to the state lottery fund.

Clairvest Group Inc., a private equity firm based in Toronto, is the primary investor in the casino, working with Great Canadian Gaming Inc., which runs more than a dozen casinos and race tracks in British Columbia and Washington state, and two Lake Oswego businessmen who have been trying since 2005 to get voter approval for a privately owned casino.

The developers are advertising their project as a family-friendly destination called "The Grange," which they say would include a casino, hotel, theater and water slide on the site of the abandoned Multnomah Kennel Club in Wood Village, a town of less than 4,000 people on the eastern edge of metropolitan Portland, about 15 miles from downtown.

They say the casino would be 130,000 square feet—about the size of an average Target store—with 2,200 slot machines and 100 table games. Their plans call for a 125-room hotel, water park, bowling alley, concert hall and a public space for farmers markets and other gatherings.

Study shows hatcheries rebuild salmon populations

From the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission

Hatcheries are an effective tool for rebuilding abundance and productivity of chinook salmon without impacting wild fish, according to research published recently in the journal *Molecular Ecology*.

Through a study of the Nez Perce tribe's Johnson Creek Artificial Propagation Enhancement Project, researchers found hatchery-reared salmon that spawned with wild salmon had the same reproductive success as salmon left to spawn in the wild.

The study focused on a population of chinook salmon whose natal stream is located in central Idaho, almost 700 miles upstream from the Pacific Ocean.

The Johnson Creek Artificial Propagation Enhancement Project (JCAPE) project study results refute a commonly held misconception, and some previous research, that suggests interbreeding of hatchery-reared fish with wild fish will always decrease productivity and fitness of the wild populations.

"The Johnson Creek research clearly demonstrates how supplementation programs can boost populations and minimize impacts to wild fish populations," said Dave Johnson, Nez Perce tribe fisheries program manager. "There will always be a need for hatcheries as long as dams exist on the Columbia River. The goal should be wiser use of the hatchery tool."

The study used DNA from all returning adults collected over a 13-year period to track parents and their offspring and to determine how successful hatchery fish were at



A weir across Johnson Creek allows tribal biologists to collect wild fish for broodstock while remaining fish are passed upstream to spawn.

mating in the wild when compared to wild fish.

The study showed a clear boost to the number of adult salmon returning to the population from supplementation, where fish taken in to the hatchery produced an average of nearly 5 times the number of returning adults compared to the fish that were left in the wild to spawn.

A key finding of the JCAPE study was that hatchery-origin fish that spawned naturally with a wild fish had equivalent reproductive success as two wild fish, suggesting that chinook salmon reared for a single generation in this supplementation hatchery did not reduce the fitness of wild fish.

Similarly, productivity of two hatchery fish spawning naturally was not significantly lower than for two wild fish.

"Our results question the generalization that all hatchery fish negatively impact the fitness of wild populations," said Maureen Hess, geneticist with the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission

and lead author on the study.

Critical time

The Nez Perce tribe began the Johnson Creek Artificial Propagation Enhancement Project in 1998 after tribal biologists observed critically low numbers of returning adults to Johnson Creek, a tributary to the South Fork of the Salmon River.

By 1995, the number of spawning fish pairs in Johnson Creek had been reduced to five.

Adult return numbers are now consistently meeting the JCAPE Project short-term abundance goal of 350 returning adults, with the project already returning more than 1,000 adults in some years.

"Supplementation is a tool that must be employed if we are going to maintain and rebuild declining salmon populations," said Silas Whitman, chairman of the Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee.

"The Johnson Creek study is just one example out of several supplementation pro-

grams that play a significant role in recovering Columbia Basin salmon runs. The Pacific salmon management world should consider supplementation as a recovery tool if the region is going to realize healthy and sustainable salmon returns."

Salmon populations in the Columbia Basin continue to face problems of loss and degradation of freshwater habitat, and significant juvenile out-migration mortality associated with the hydro-system.

The tribes have argued that supplementation programs that incorporate wild fish as broodstock into their hatchery programs and place fish back in to their natural spawning areas are important to recovery.

"The public and the Pacific Northwest want abundant salmon runs. We all deserve abundance," said N. Kathryn 'Kat' Brigham, chairwoman of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.

"The tribes have always supported using the best available science to inform good management decisions," she said. "This study documents what we have believed all along—that hatcheries are needed to rebuild natural salmon populations."

"Our goal is to use hatcheries as wild salmon nurseries to protect our treaty fishing rights in all of our usual and accustomed areas and to rebuild salmon runs. We hope that the co-managers and the science groups will use the Johnson Creek study results because it sets a new benchmark to guide the management of hatcheries."

Museum to host art market in November

The Museum at Warm Springs next month will host the Native American Heritage Art Market. Everyone is invited to enjoy a fanfare and festive time at the market, set for Nov. 24.

Authentic Native art

and crafts will be for sale, including bead barettes, bracelets, decorative key rings, earrings, medallions, woven items, and small and large baskets.

For vendor or other information, call the museum at 541-553-3331.

Umatilla attorney appointed special assistant U.S. Attorney

M. Brent Leonhard, an attorney for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation, has been appointed to the position of Special Assistant U.S. Attorney.

Leonhard will assist in prosecution of federal crimes occurring in Indian Country, while continuing to work full-time for the Umatilla tribes.

"We are incredibly excited to have Brent prosecuting cases in Indian Country," said U.S. Attorney Amanda Marshall.

"His dual roles, as both a lawyer for the tribes and a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney, will further improve coordination between tribal authorities and federal law enforcement during criminal investigations."

Leonhard has a long history of advocating for tribal nations. He is currently serving on Attorney General Eric Holder's Violence Against Women Federal and Tribal Prosecution Task Force in

Indian Country.

While working for the Umatilla tribes, Leonhard assisted in drafting language for the Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010.

Leonhard has already begun prosecuting federal cases on the Umatilla Indian Reservation, including a case in which a non-tribal member is charged with stealing money from a tribal member at the Wildhorse Casino and Resort, and another case in which a non-tribal member is charged with defrauding the Arrowhead Travel Plaza.

Leonhard has previously served as the lead prosecutor for the White Mountain Apache Tribes and as the head of the public defender office for the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation.

Leonhard received his J.D. from the University of Washington and his B.A. from Western Washington University.

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Or email: yvonne.iverson@wstribs.org

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