



COQUILLE INDIAN

3050 Tremont Street North Bend, OR 97459

Tribe Welcomes Halt of Lottery Ads

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Coquille Indian Tribe welcomed the state's decision to discontinue an Oregon Lottery advertising campaign featuring the explorers Lewis and Clark.

"This is a good start," said Tribal Chairperson Brenda Meade. "We hope it signals the beginning of an honest conversation about the state's position on Indian gaming."

While pulling the ads was a positive step, Meade said the Coquille Tribe is more interested in fair treatment on economic issues.

"It doesn't sit right that Oregon is rolling out new Lottery terminals all over the state and expanding its gaming revenue while saying our very modest project is somehow going to damage the public's welfare," Meade said.

The Coquille Tribe had criticized the campaign as part of the state's "relentless discrimination against our Tribe's economic development efforts." The ads depict the explorers Lewis and Clark happily discovering "native" Lottery terminals in a wilderness uninhabited by native people. That image, coupled with the state's opposition to the Coquille Tribe's casino proposal in Medford, demonstrates the state's hypocritical policies on gaming, the Tribe said.

Responding to a question about the Tribe's protest, Gov. Kate Brown told Eugene's KVAL News: "Clearly the ads were distressing and upsetting to Oregon's tribal communities. We pulled them."

The Coquille Tribe has proposed to convert a Medford bowling alley into The Cedars at Bear Creek, a Class II casino. Class II casinos offer only video terminals, similar to the Lottery terminals widely found in bars, restaurants and other outlets throughout the state. The Cedars is awaiting release of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement by the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs.

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