Agenda Item 2A: Federal Advocacy Letters
The Honorable Sheila Jackson-Lee  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security,  
And Investigations  
Committee on the Judiciary  
U.S. House of Representatives  
B-336 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  

Dear Congresswoman Jackson-Lee:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara in support of legislation to address the issue of treatment for mentally ill offenders in local jails and juvenile detention facilities.  

Please consider co-sponsoring Congressman Nugent’s H.R. 731, the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Act, which would reauthorize and improve the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act (MIOTCRA) of 2004, including grants for improved mental health treatment services for mentally ill offenders. It is estimated that 15% of the inmates in local jails suffer from mental illness, and one out of five individuals in juvenile custody are on psychotropic drugs. In many cases jails have become a revolving door for these individuals as they are continually arrested and re-arrested for nuisance offenses such as trespassing and harassing business. The need for services that can effectively transition mentally ill prisoners out of detention facilities and into a community treatment environment has become critical in recent years, particularly in light of tragic events where individuals have provoked fatal confrontations with officers in what are called, “suicide by cop” incidents.

The grants authorized by the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Act would provide the opportunity for additional resources for needed services at the local level. Please work with the members of your subcommittee to expedite approval of H.R. 731 or similar legislation to provide funding for mental health treatment services for mentally ill offenders.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters  
Washington Representative  

TPW:jaw
June 8, 2015

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara in support of legislation to address the issue of treatment for mentally ill offenders in local jails and juvenile detention facilities.

Thank you for co-sponsoring Congressman Nugent’s H.R. 731, the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Act, which would reauthorize and improve the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act (MIOTCRA) of 2004, including grants for improved mental health treatment services for mentally ill offenders. It is estimated that 15% of the inmates in local jails suffer from mental illness, and one out of five individuals in juvenile custody are on psychotropic drugs. In many cases jails have become a revolving door for these individuals as they are continually arrested and re-arrested for nuisance offenses such as trespassing and harassing business. The need for services that can effectively transition mentally ill prisoners out of detention facilities and into a community treatment environment has become critical in recent years, particularly in light of tragic events where individuals have provoked fatal confrontations with officers in what are called, “suicide by cop” incidents.

The grants authorized by the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Act would provide the opportunity for additional resources for needed services at the local level. Please work with the members of your subcommittee to expedite approval of H.R. 731 or similar legislation to provide funding for mental health treatment services for mentally ill offenders.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative
June 8, 2015

The Honorable Lois Capps
U.S. House of Representatives
2231 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Lois:

I have sent the enclosed letters to Chairman Sensenbrenner and Ranking Member Jackson-Lee of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, urging them to take action on legislation such as Congressman Nugent’s H.R. 731, the *Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Act*, which would reauthorize and improve the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act (MIOTCRA) of 2004, including providing grants for improved mental health treatment services for mentally ill offenders.

It is estimated that an average of 15% of the inmates in local jails suffer from mental illness, and one out of five individuals in juvenile custody are on psychotropic drugs. In many cases the jail has become a revolving door for these individuals as they are continually arrested and re-arrested for nuisance offenses such as trespassing and harassing business. The need for services that can effectively transition mentally ill prisoners out of detention facilities and into a community treatment environment has become critical in recent years.

Please consider cosponsoring H.R. 731, and urge your colleagues who serve on the subcommittee to expedite action on it or similar legislation to provide resources for improved mental health treatment services for mentally ill offenders.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

TPW:jaw

Enclosures
Dear Senator Boxer:

I have sent the enclosed letters to Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Grassley and Ranking Minority Member Leahy, expressing the support of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors for legislation to reauthorize the Second Chance Act.

As a result of the recent realignment by the State of California, the population of inmates in the Santa Barbara County jail has risen substantially, and the Probation Department’s workload has also increased dramatically. Many of these individuals struggle with substance abuse, lack of adequate education and job skills, and mental health issues. Resources for re-entry and anti-recidivism activities at the local level are critical to transitioning them back into society. The Second Chance Act authorizes such resources.

The most recent Second Chance Act authorization expired on September 30, 2010. While Congress has continued to fund the Act’s programs through the annual appropriations process, it is important that it be reauthorized as soon as possible to ensure that it continues to offer needed re-entry resources to local governments such as the County. Please urge your colleagues who serve on the Judiciary Committee to expedite action on legislation that would reauthorize the Second Chance Act. I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

TPW:jaw

Enclosures
June 9, 2015

The Honorable Lois Capps  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2231 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Lois:

I have sent the enclosed letters to House Judiciary Committee Chairman Goodlatte and Ranking Minority Member Conyers, expressing the support of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors for legislation to reauthorize the Second Chance Act.

As a result of the recent realignment by the State of California, the population of inmates in the Santa Barbara County jail has risen substantially, and the Probation Department’s workload has also increased dramatically. Many of these individuals struggle with substance abuse, lack of adequate education and job skills, and mental health issues. Resources for re-entry and anti-recidivism activities at the local level are critical to transitioning them back into society. The Second Chance Act authorizes such resources.

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Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters  
Washington Representative

Enclosures
June 9, 2015

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
SH-331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

I have sent the enclosed letters to Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Grassley and Ranking Minority Member Leahy, expressing the support of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors for legislation to reauthorize the Second Chance Act.

As a result of the recent realignment by the State of California, the population of inmates in the Santa Barbara County jail has risen substantially, and the Probation Department’s workload has also increased dramatically. Many of these individuals struggle with substance abuse, lack of adequate education and job skills, and mental health issues. Resources for re-entry and anti-recidivism activities at the local level are critical to transitioning them back into society. The Second Chance Act authorizes such resources.

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Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

TPW:jaw

Enclosures
June 9, 2015

The Honorable John Conyers  
Ranking Minority Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2142 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Conyers:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors in support of legislation to reauthorize and improve the Second Chance Act.

As a result of the recent realignment by the State of California, the population of inmates in the Santa Barbara County jail has risen substantially, and the Probation Department’s workload has also increased dramatically. Many of these individuals struggle with substance abuse, lack of adequate education and job skills, and mental health issues. Resources for re-entry and anti-recidivism activities at the local level are critical to transitioning them back into society. The Second Chance Act authorizes such resources. It has provided grants to State and local governments to meet a broad range of needs, including: mental health and substance abuse treatment initiatives; technology career training programs; juvenile re-entry efforts; and smart probation projects.

The most recent Second Chance Act authorization expired on September 30, 2010. While Congress has continued to fund the Act’s programs through the annual appropriations process, it is important that it be reauthorized as soon as possible to ensure that it continues to offer needed re-entry resources to local governments such as the County. Please work with the members of your committee to expedite action legislation that would reauthorize the Second Chance Act. I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters  
Washington Representative

TPW:jaw
June 9, 2015

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors in support of legislation to reauthorize and improve the Second Chance Act.

As a result of the recent realignment by the State of California, the population of inmates in the Santa Barbara County jail has risen substantially, and the Probation Department’s workload has also increased dramatically. Many of these individuals struggle with substance abuse, lack of adequate education and job skills, and mental health issues. Resources for re-entry and anti-recidivism activities at the local level are critical to transitioning them back into society. The Second Chance Act authorizes such resources. It has provided grants to State and local governments to meet a broad range of needs, including: mental health and substance abuse treatment initiatives; technology career training programs; juvenile re-entry efforts; and smart probation projects.

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Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

TPW:jaw
The Honorable Charles Grassley, Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
SD-224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors in support of legislation to reauthorize and improve the Second Chance Act.

As a result of the recent realignment by the State of California, the population of inmates in the Santa Barbara County jail has risen substantially, and the Probation Department’s workload has also increased dramatically. Many of these individuals struggle with substance abuse, lack of adequate education and job skills, and mental health issues. Resources for re-entry and anti-recidivism activities at the local level are critical to transitioning them back into society. The Second Chance Act authorizes such resources. It has provided grants to State and local governments to meet a broad range of needs, including: mental health and substance abuse treatment initiatives; technology career training programs; juvenile re-entry efforts; and smart probation projects.

The most recent Second Chance Act authorization expired on September 30, 2010. While Congress has continued to fund the Act’s programs through the annual appropriations process, it is important that it be reauthorized as soon as possible to ensure that it continues to offer needed re-entry resources to local governments such as the County. Please work with the members of your committee to expedite action legislation that would reauthorize the Second Chance Act. I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters  
Washington Representative

TPW:jaw
June 9, 2015

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Ranking Minority Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
SD-152 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Leahy:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors in support of legislation to reauthorize and improve the Second Chance Act.

As a result of the recent realignment by the State of California, the population of inmates in the Santa Barbara County jail has risen substantially, and the Probation Department’s workload has also increased dramatically. Many of these individuals struggle with substance abuse, lack of adequate education and job skills, and mental health issues. Resources for re-entry and anti-recidivism activities at the local level are critical to transitioning them back into society. The Second Chance Act authorizes such resources. It has provided grants to State and local governments to meet a broad range of needs, including: mental health and substance abuse treatment initiatives; technology career training programs; juvenile re-entry efforts; and smart probation projects.

The most recent Second Chance Act authorization expired on September 30, 2010. While Congress has continued to fund the Act’s programs through the annual appropriations process, it is important that it be reauthorized as soon as possible to ensure that it continues to offer needed re-entry resources to local governments such as the County. Please work with the members of your committee to expedite action legislation that would reauthorize the Second Chance Act. I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

TPW:jaw
June 15, 2015

The Honorable Norma Judith Torres, Member
Subcommittee on Indian, Insular, and Alaska Native Affairs
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
516 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear: Congresswoman Torres:

I am writing to reiterate the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors’ opposition to Congressman LaMalfa’s H.R. 1157, which would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians.

H.R. 1157 is also opposed by Congresswoman Capps, whose Congressional District includes the land in question. While the Santa Ynez Band’s request to take the 1400 acres of land commonly referred to as Camp 4 into Federal trust was approved by the Bureau of Indian Affairs last December, the County is currently appealing that decision through the established administrative process, and H.R. 1157 would short-circuit that process.

The decision to oppose the taking of Camp 4 into trust came after considerable public testimony in open session and deliberation by Board members. It was based on the substantial and significant negative impacts that would result, including jurisdictional problems, conflicts of land use, and loss of revenues for the support of public services. In particular, the Board is concerned with two critical consequences. First, removal of this land from local tax rolls will have a negative impact in perpetuity. These tax revenues are essential for the delivery of public services – including schools and public safety – to all residents of the County, including Tribal members. Secondly, placing Camp 4 into trust will permanently exempt it from land use and zoning requirements determined by the local community, disrupting the integrity of local land use planning and decision making.

While the County is committed to continuing to work with the Band regarding the development of Camp 4 to meet the housing needs of its members, it opposes H.R. 1157 or any other proposals that would circumvent the BIA’s established administrative process and take the land into trust legislatively. A hearing on H.R. 1157 by the Subcommittee on Indian, Insular, and Alaska native Affairs is scheduled for June 17, 2015. We urge Subcommittee members to also oppose any action on the bill. I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

TPW:jaw
June 12, 2015

The Honorable Dan Benishek, Member
Subcommittee on Indian, Insular, and Alaska Native Affairs
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
514 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear: Congressman Benishek:

I am writing to reiterate the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors’ opposition to Congressman LaMalfa’s H.R. 1157, which would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians.

H.R. 1157 is also opposed by Congresswoman Capps, whose Congressional District includes the land in question. While the Santa Ynez Band’s request to take the 1400 acres of land commonly referred to as Camp 4 into Federal trust was approved by the Bureau of Indian Affairs last December, the County is currently appealing that decision through the established administrative process, and H.R. 1157 would short-circuit that process.

The decision to oppose the taking of Camp 4 into trust came after considerable public testimony in open session and deliberation by Board members. It was based on the substantial and significant negative impacts that would result, including jurisdictional problems, conflicts of land use, and loss of revenues for the support of public services. In particular, the Board is concerned with two critical consequences. First, removal of this land from local tax rolls will have a negative impact in perpetuity. These tax revenues are essential for the delivery of public services – including schools and public safety – to all residents of the County, including Tribal members. Secondly, placing Camp 4 into trust will permanently exempt it from land use and zoning requirements determined by the local community, disrupting the integrity of local land use planning and decision making.

While the County is committed to continuing to work with the Band regarding the development of Camp 4 to meet the housing needs of its members, it opposes H.R. 1157 or any other proposals that would circumvent the BIA’s established administrative process and take the land into trust legislatively. A hearing on H.R. 1157 by the Subcommittee on Indian, Insular, and Alaska native Affairs is scheduled for June 17, 2015. We urge Subcommittee members to also oppose any action on the bill. I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

TPW:jaw
June 12, 2015

The Honorable Robert Bishop, Chairman
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear: Mr. Chairman:

I am writing to reiterate the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors’ opposition to Congressman LaMalfa’s H.R. 1157, which would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians.

H.R. 1157 is also opposed by Congresswoman Capps, whose Congressional District includes the land in question. While the Santa Ynez Band’s request to take the 1400 acres of land commonly referred to as Camp 4 into Federal trust was approved by the Bureau of Indian Affairs last December, the County is currently appealing that decision through the established administrative process, and H.R. 1157 would short-circuit that process.

The decision to oppose the taking of Camp 4 into trust came after considerable public testimony in open session and deliberation by Board members. It was based on the substantial and significant negative impacts that would result, including jurisdictional problems, conflicts of land use, and loss of revenues for the support of public services. In particular, the Board is concerned with two critical consequences. First, removal of this land from local tax rolls will have a negative impact in perpetuity. These tax revenues are essential for the delivery of public services – including schools and public safety – to all residents of the County, including Tribal members. Secondly, placing Camp 4 into trust will permanently exempt it from land use and zoning requirements determined by the local community, disrupting the integrity of local land use planning and decision making.

While the County is committed to continuing to work with the Band regarding the development of Camp 4 to meet the housing needs of its members, it opposes H.R. 1157 or any other proposals that would circumvent the BIA’s established administrative process and take the land into trust legislatively. A hearing on H.R. 1157 by the Subcommittee on Indian, Insular, and Alaska native Affairs is scheduled for June 17, 2015. We urge Subcommittee members to also oppose any action on the bill. I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

TPW:jaw
June 15, 2015

The Honorable Madeleine Bordallo, Member
Subcommittee on Indian, Insular, and Alaska Native Affairs
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
2441 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear: Congresswoman Bordallo:

I am writing to reiterate the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors’ opposition to Congressman LaMalfa’s H.R. 1157, which would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians.

H.R. 1157 is also opposed by Congresswoman Capps, whose Congressional District includes the land in question. While the Santa Ynez Band’s request to take the 1400 acres of land commonly referred to as Camp 4 into Federal trust was approved by the Bureau of Indian Affairs last December, the County is currently appealing that decision through the established administrative process, and H.R. 1157 would short-circuit that process.

The decision to oppose the taking of Camp 4 into trust came after considerable public testimony in open session and deliberation by Board members. It was based on the substantial and significant negative impacts that would result, including jurisdictional problems, conflicts of land use, and loss of revenues for the support of public services. In particular, the Board is concerned with two critical consequences. First, removal of this land from local tax rolls will have a negative impact in perpetuity. These tax revenues are essential for the delivery of public services – including schools and public safety – to all residents of the County, including Tribal members. Secondly, placing Camp 4 into trust will permanently exempt it from land use and zoning requirements determined by the local community, disrupting the integrity of local land use planning and decision making.

While the County is committed to continuing to work with the Band regarding the development of Camp 4 to meet the housing needs of its members, it opposes H.R. 1157 or any other proposals that would circumvent the BIA’s established administrative process and take the land into trust legislatively. A hearing on H.R. 1157 by the Subcommittee on Indian, Insular, and Alaska native Affairs is scheduled for June 17, 2015. We urge Subcommittee members to also oppose any action on the bill. I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

TPW:jaw
June 12, 2015

The Honorable Paul Cook, Member
Subcommittee on Indian, Insular, and Alaska Native Affairs
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
1222 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear: Congressman Cook:

I am writing to reiterate the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors’ opposition to Congressman LaMalfa’s H.R. 1157, which would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians.

H.R. 1157 is also opposed by Congresswoman Capps, whose Congressional District includes the land in question. While the Santa Ynez Band’s request to take the 1400 acres of land commonly referred to as Camp 4 into Federal trust was approved by the Bureau of Indian Affairs last December, the County is currently appealing that decision through the established administrative process, and H.R. 1157 would short-circuit that process.

The decision to oppose the taking of Camp 4 into trust came after considerable public testimony in open session and deliberation by Board members. It was based on the substantial and significant negative impacts that would result, including jurisdictional problems, conflicts of land use, and loss of revenues for the support of public services. In particular, the Board is concerned with two critical consequences. First, removal of this land from local tax rolls will have a negative impact in perpetuity. These tax revenues are essential for the delivery of public services – including schools and public safety – to all residents of the County, including Tribal members. Secondly, placing Camp 4 into trust will permanently exempt it from land use and zoning requirements determined by the local community, disrupting the integrity of local land use planning and decision making.

While the County is committed to continuing to work with the Band regarding the development of Camp 4 to meet the housing needs of its members, it opposes H.R. 1157 or any other proposals that would circumvent the BIA’s established administrative process and take the land into trust legislatively. A hearing on H.R. 1157 by the Subcommittee on Indian, Insular, and Alaska native Affairs is scheduled for June 17, 2015. We urge Subcommittee members to also oppose any action on the bill. I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

TPW:jaw
June 12, 2015

The Honorable Jeff Denham, Member
Subcommittee on Indian, Insular, and Alaska Native Affairs
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
1730 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear: Congressman Denham:

I am writing to reiterate the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors’ opposition to Congressman LaMalfa’s H.R. 1157, which would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians.

H.R. 1157 is also opposed by Congresswoman Capps, whose Congressional District includes the land in question. While the Santa Ynez Band’s request to take the 1400 acres of land commonly referred to as Camp 4 into Federal trust was approved by the Bureau of Indian Affairs last December, the County is currently appealing that decision through the established administrative process, and H.R. 1157 would short-circuit that process.

The decision to oppose the taking of Camp 4 into trust came after considerable public testimony in open session and deliberation by Board members. It was based on the substantial and significant negative impacts that would result, including jurisdictional problems, conflicts of land use, and loss of revenues for the support of public services. In particular, the Board is concerned with two critical consequences. First, removal of this land from local tax rolls will have a negative impact in perpetuity. These tax revenues are essential for the delivery of public services – including schools and public safety – to all residents of the County, including Tribal members. Secondly, placing Camp 4 into trust will permanently exempt it from land use and zoning requirements determined by the local community, disrupting the integrity of local land use planning and decision making.

While the County is committed to continuing to work with the Band regarding the development of Camp 4 to meet the housing needs of its members, it opposes H.R. 1157 or any other proposals that would circumvent the BIA’s established administrative process and take the land into trust legislatively. A hearing on H.R. 1157 by the Subcommittee on Indian, Insular, and Alaska native Affairs is scheduled for June 17, 2015. We urge Subcommittee members to also oppose any action on the bill. I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

TPW:jaw
Dear Congressman Gosar:

I am writing to reiterate the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors’ opposition to Congressman LaMalfa’s H.R. 1157, which would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians.

H.R. 1157 is also opposed by Congresswoman Capps, whose Congressional District includes the land in question. While the Santa Ynez Band’s request to take the 1400 acres of land commonly referred to as Camp 4 into Federal trust was approved by the Bureau of Indian Affairs last December, the County is currently appealing that decision through the established administrative process, and H.R. 1157 would short-circuit that process.

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Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative
June 12, 2015

The Honorable Raul Grijalva
Ranking Minority Member
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
1329 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear: Congressman Grijalva:

I am writing to reiterate the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors’ opposition to Congressman LaMalfa’s H.R. 1157, which would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians.

H.R. 1157 is also opposed by Congresswoman Capps, whose Congressional District includes the land in question. While the Santa Ynez Band’s request to take the 1400 acres of land commonly referred to as Camp 4 into Federal trust was approved by the Bureau of Indian Affairs last December, the County is currently appealing that decision through the established administrative process, and H.R. 1157 would short-circuit that process.

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Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

TPW:jaw
June 15, 2015

The Honorable Pedro Pierluisi, Member
Subcommittee on Indian, Insular, and Alaska Native Affairs
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
2410 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear: Congressman Pierluisi:

I am writing to reiterate the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors’ opposition to Congressman LaMalfa’s H.R. 1157, which would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians.

H.R. 1157 is also opposed by Congresswoman Capps, whose Congressional District includes the land in question. While the Santa Ynez Band’s request to take the 1400 acres of land commonly referred to as Camp 4 into Federal trust was approved by the Bureau of Indian Affairs last December, the County is currently appealing that decision through the established administrative process, and H.R. 1157 would short-circuit that process.

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Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

TPW:jaw
The Honorable Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen, Member
Subcommittee on Indian, Insular, and Alaska Native Affairs
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
1339 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear: Congresswoman Radewagen:

I am writing to reiterate the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors’ opposition to Congressman LaMalfa’s H.R. 1157, which would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians.

H.R. 1157 is also opposed by Congresswoman Capps, whose Congressional District includes the land in question. While the Santa Ynez Band’s request to take the 1400 acres of land commonly referred to as Camp 4 into Federal trust was approved by the Bureau of Indian Affairs last December, the County is currently appealing that decision through the established administrative process, and H.R. 1157 would short-circuit that process.

The decision to oppose the taking of Camp 4 into trust came after considerable public testimony in open session and deliberation by Board members. It was based on the substantial and significant negative impacts that would result, including jurisdictional problems, conflicts of land use, and loss of revenues for the support of public services. In particular, the Board is concerned with two critical consequences. First, removal of this land from local tax rolls will have a negative impact in perpetuity. These tax revenues are essential for the delivery of public services – including schools and public safety – to all residents of the County, including Tribal members. Secondly, placing Camp 4 into trust will permanently exempt it from land use and zoning requirements determined by the local community, disrupting the integrity of local land use planning and decision making.

While the County is committed to continuing to work with the Band regarding the development of Camp 4 to meet the housing needs of its members, it opposes H.R. 1157 or any other proposals that would circumvent the BIA’s established administrative process and take the land into trust legislatively. A hearing on H.R. 1157 by the Subcommittee on Indian, Insular, and Alaska native Affairs is scheduled for June 17, 2015. We urge Subcommittee members to also oppose any action on the bill. I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

TPW:jaw
June 12, 2015

The Honorable Dr. Raul Ruiz  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Indian, Insular, and Alaska Native Affairs  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1329 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Ruiz:

I am writing to reiterate the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors’ opposition to Congressman LaMalfa’s H.R. 1157, which would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians.

H.R. 1157 is also opposed by Congresswoman Capps, whose Congressional District includes the land in question. While the Santa Ynez Band’s request to take the 1400 acres of land commonly referred to as Camp 4 into Federal trust was approved by the Bureau of Indian Affairs last December, the County is currently appealing that decision through the established administrative process, and H.R. 1157 would short-circuit that process.

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Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters  
Washington Representative

TPW:jaw
June 15, 2015

The Honorable Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan, Member
Subcommittee on Indian, Insular, and Alaska Native Affairs
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
423 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear: Congressman Sablan:

I am writing to reiterate the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors’ opposition to Congressman LaMalfa’s H.R. 1157, which would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians.

H.R. 1157 is also opposed by Congresswoman Capps, whose Congressional District includes the land in question. While the Santa Ynez Band’s request to take the 1400 acres of land commonly referred to as Camp 4 into Federal trust was approved by the Bureau of Indian Affairs last December, the County is currently appealing that decision through the established administrative process, and H.R. 1157 would short-circuit that process.

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Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

TPW:jaw
June 12, 2015

The Honorable Don Young, Chairman
Subcommittee on Indian, Insular, and Alaska Native Affairs
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
1337 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear: Mr. Chairman:

I am writing to reiterate the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors’ opposition to Congressman LaMalfa’s H.R. 1157, which would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians.

H.R. 1157 is also opposed by Congresswoman Capps, whose Congressional District includes the land in question. While the Santa Ynez Band’s request to take the 1400 acres of land commonly referred to as Camp 4 into Federal trust was approved by the Bureau of Indian Affairs last December, the County is currently appealing that decision through the established administrative process, and H.R. 1157 would short-circuit that process.

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Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

TPW:jaw
June 26, 2015

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Ranking Minority Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
SD-152 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Leahy:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara in support of legislation to address the issue of treatment for mentally ill offenders in local jails and juvenile detention facilities.

Thank you for co-sponsoring Senator Franken’s S. 993, the Comprehensive Justice and Mental Health Act, which would facilitate collaboration amongst the criminal justice, juvenile justice, veterans treatment services, mental health treatment, and substance abuse systems. It is estimated that 15% of the inmates in local jails suffer from mental illness, and one out of five individuals in juvenile custody are on psychotropic drugs. In many cases jails have become a revolving door for these individuals as they are continually arrested and re-arrested for nuisance offenses such as trespassing and harassing business. The need for services that can effectively transition mentally ill prisoners out of detention facilities and into a community treatment environment has become critical in recent years, particularly in light of tragic events where individuals have provoked fatal confrontations with officers in what is called, “suicide by cop” incidents.

The grants authorized by the Comprehensive Justice and Mental Health Act would provide the opportunity for additional resources for needed services at the local level. Please work to expedite full Senate approval of S. 993 or similar legislation to provide funding for mental health treatment services for mentally ill offenders.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters  
Washington Representative

TPW:jaw
June 26, 2015

The Honorable Charles Grassley, Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
SD-224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara in support of legislation to address the issue of treatment for mentally ill offenders in local jails and juvenile detention facilities.

Thank you for co-sponsoring Senator Franken’s S. 993, the Comprehensive Justice and Mental Health Act, which would facilitate collaboration amongst the criminal justice, juvenile justice, veterans treatment services, mental health treatment, and substance abuse systems. It is estimated that 15% of the inmates in local jails suffer from mental illness, and one out of five individuals in juvenile custody are on psychotropic drugs. In many cases jails have become a revolving door for these individuals as they are continually arrested and re-arrested for nuisance offenses such as trespassing and harassing business. The need for services that can effectively transition mentally ill prisoners out of detention facilities and into a community treatment environment has become critical in recent years, particularly in light of tragic events where individuals have provoked fatal confrontations with officers in what is called, “suicide by cop” incidents.

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Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

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