



# Florida House of Representatives

## *Representative Jeanette M. Nuñez*

### District 119

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*Jeanette.Nuñez@myfloridahouse.gov*

February 20, 2013

The Honorable Rick Scott  
Governor, State of Florida  
Plaza Level, The Capitol  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Governor Scott:

I am writing this letter to alert you to an issue of extreme importance to my district and my community. In 2003, the Miccosukee Tribe applied to the US Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs to transfer land they owned, consisting of a Golf and Country Club located at 6401 Kendale Lakes Drive, Miami, FL 33183, into Trust. As a result, the net effect of this action is to incorporate the golf course into the Tribal Lands, converting the property into part of a sovereign nation as an enclave within a densely populated, residential community in my district (known as Kendale Lakes). In 2012, the US Department of the Interior approved said application and Miami-Dade County, in opposition to this action, has responded by filing an appeal.

Clearly, there are numerous legal complexities surrounding the Miccosukee Tribe, which will continue to be discussed at the appellate court. However, I did want to highlight that federal law generally prohibits tribes from gambling on lands taken into trust after October 17, 1988, with one exception available to the Miccosukee Tribe. It is my understanding that in order for gambling to be offered at the golf course the following would need to occur:

- The tribe may ask the Secretary of the Interior to determine that it is in the best interest of the tribe to establish a gaming establishment at the site and that it would not be detrimental to the surrounding community.

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- The Secretary would consult with the Tribe, state and local officials, and likely the Seminole Tribe.
- The Governor of Florida would have to concur with the Secretary's determination that a gaming establishment was in the Tribe's best interest and not detrimental to the surrounding community.

Given their recent decision, I am not confident that the Federal Government would take into account the detrimental effects to the surrounding community. Therefore, I am respectfully urging that you oppose any and all attempts by the Miccosukee Tribe to further their gambling footprint in this residential area that would be negatively impacted by such an establishment. I look forward to our continued discussion on this very important issue and hope you will fully support my request.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeanette M. Nunez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "J" and "M".

Jeanette M. Nunez

State Representative, District 119

cc: Mayor Carlos Giménez, Miami-Dade County  
County Commissioner Juan C. Zapata