



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

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GOVERNOR

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Governor M. Jodi Rell Statement on Golden Hill Paugussett Decision

Tribe Denied Recognition

The Office of U.S. Department of Interior Secretary Gale Norton called to inform me this afternoon that the Golden Hill Paugussett Tribe of Connecticut has been denied federal recognition.

This is great news for Fairfield County residents and for all of Connecticut. Tribal recognition has a huge impact on the everyday lives of Connecticut residents, particularly where casino gaming is involved.

This decision should bring relief to the thousands of western Connecticut land owners who have been living under the threat of potential land claims for years.

Justice has prevailed. The Bureau of Indian Affairs finally made the right decision and I am thankful. After more than a decade, we have a decision that respects the rule of law and is based on common sense.

I thank Attorney General Blumenthal, Senators Dodd and Lieberman, as well as all of our members in the House of Representatives for their tireless work on this petition.

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