

CHAIRMAN JOHN McCAIN'S OPENING STATEMENT

HEARING ON S.113,

A BILL TO MODIFY THE DATE AS OF WHICH CERTAIN TRIBAL LAND OF THE
LYTTON RANCHERIA OF CALIFORNIA IS DEEMED TO BE HELD IN TRUST

APRIL 5, 2005

This morning we will hear testimony supporting and opposing S.113, a bill introduced by Senator Feinstein to remove language from the Omnibus Indian Advancement Act that benefitted the Lytton Rancheria of California. This language had the effect of making certain property in the San Francisco Bay Area immediately eligible for gaming pursuant to the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, without going through the normal processes required under that act.

I have said before that I have concerns with the manner in which the Lytton's off-reservation casino was authorized. The question before us now, however, is what to do about it. The Lytton Band of Pomo Indians declared just last month that it is no longer seeking legislative ratification of the gaming compact, and so the prospect of a Class III casino with thousands of slot machines is not imminent. Nevertheless, the issue, as we will hear today, is still controversial. I look forward to hearing from all of our witnesses.