

Media Release

Contact: Jamie Sijohn
(509) 456-8640
Jamie@bhw1.com

SPOKANE TRIBE ECONOMIC PROJECT

(Airway Heights, WA June 21, 2017) Construction on the Spokane Tribe Casino continues despite a lawsuit filed by the Spokane County in federal court. Spokane County filed its lawsuit on June 16, 2017 to stop the Spokane Tribe's casino in Airway Heights. The County Commissioners claim the Spokane Tribal Casino will harm the future of Fairchild Air Force Base and poses safety threats to residents. The Spokane Tribe, the United States Department of Defense, the United States Air Force, the United States Department of Interior, the State of Washington, land use experts, and a significant number of Spokane taxpayers disagree.

The Spokane Tribe went through a lengthy application and approval process, including an Environmental Impact Statement ("EIS"). Multiple entities participated in the EIS review process as cooperating agencies, including the U.S. Air Force, Fairchild, FAA, Spokane County, the Kalispel Tribe, and many others.

Neither the U.S. Air Force nor Fairchild opposed the project.

The Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Air Force stated that the Spokane Tribe's casino effects on Fairchild were "insignificant." Governor Jay Inslee previously explained that "the record establishes that STEP will not interfere with Fairchild's current operations or negatively impact future Air Force citing decisions".

Fairchild Air Force base is set to receive new air refueling tankers making it the largest tanker fleet in the Air Force. According to U.S. Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson, Fairchild was "the best choice". The Spokane County Commissioners' decision to file a lawsuit despite Fairchild's recent expansion contradicts their own arguments.

In response to the County's lawsuit, Spokane Tribal Chair Carol Evans states, "the Spokane Tribe worked closely with the U.S. Air Force, Fairchild Air Force base officials, the City of Airway Heights, and the Washington State Department of Transportation when planning our STEP project. The U.S. Department of Interior and Governor Jay Inslee correctly determined that our mixed-use development project is not detrimental.

(more)



STEPSPOKANE.COM

Now our Spokane Tribe Casino is under construction and Fairchild is expanding. The Spokane Tribe maintains close working relationships with the Air Force and actively lobbied for additional tankers for Fairchild. We are pleased to see all the new jobs and economic development to the local community”.

To stay up-to-date on the facts of the STEP project please visit: www.stepspokane.com.

###



STEPSPokane.com