Washington, DC -- U.S. Representative Michael A. Arcuri (D-Utica) issued this statement following the U.S. Department of the Interior's Record of Decision on the Oneida Indian Nation of New York's land-into-trust application:

"I feel an incredible sense of personal frustration and outrage at the Department of Interior's decision. County Executive Picente, Congressman McHugh, Governor Paterson and I have spent months of intensive efforts trying to convince the BIA and other parties of the advantage of a negotiated settlement to prevent costly litigation.

"During that time, I personally have spoken with Assistant Deputy Secretary Jim Cason at least four times, and had numerous correspondence, meetings, and conversations with the other parties to the negotiations. Unfortunately for the people of Oneida and Madison counties, the logic and good sense of these arguments fell upon deaf ears at the BIA.

"I nevertheless will play whatever role needed to resolve this matter in a way which is best for my constituents."

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