perception from this meeting that there was active opposition by the entire Minnesota delegation and the Wisconsin congressman from the district in which the casino would operate.

3. Opponent Representatives Meet with DOI Chief of Staff Thomas Collier on March 15, 1995

Following the Feb. 8 meeting in Congressman Oberstar's offices, tribal representatives "strongly recommended" that the tribes "[d]o an economic study to document negative impact on Minnesota and Wisconsin tribes" from the proposed Hudson casino.[163] In the weeks that followed, John McCarthy's focus was on making sure that the tribes followed through on preparing economic impact studies and submitting them to DOI. Similarly, O'Connor & Hannan had persuaded the St. Croix to commission Coopers & Lybrand to conduct an in-depth market analysis – an expensive endeavor estimated to require 45 to 60 days to complete.

Notwithstanding Duffy's pledge to permit additional comments, representatives of the opponent tribes became concerned that the rapid progress of the application would foreclose consideration of additional materials. In a March 2 memo to Taylor, Corcoran reported that he had spoken with Kevin Meisner in the DOI Solicitor's Office, and Meisner expected to receive Skibine's recommendation on the application in about two weeks. Corcoran stated that he had asked Ducheneaux to talk to Skibine "to clarify this matter," and to ask Oberstar and Vento to call Skibine as well. Corcoran also reported that he and O'Connor were going to try to meet with Babbitt's chief of staff, Thomas Collier, early the following week "to get a commitment that we be given adequate time" to submit a report from Coopers & Lybrand on the potential impact of a

[163]"Minnesota Legislative Update," from Larry Kitto to Tribal Clients, Feb. 6-10, 1995.