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SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, FORESTS AND PUBLIC LANDS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3602

January 12, 2009

Hon. Phil Hogan
Chairman
National Indian Gaming Association
1441 L St NW
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Chairman Hogan:

With the change of executive administration, the NIGC will similarly be experiencing changes. We are writing to respectfully ask that you take no further actions that would attempt to change the status of the law with regard to Class II gaming. Likewise, we respectfully ask that you take no enforcement actions against tribes operating games that have been ruled lawful by tribal gaming commissions.

We have disagreed with several efforts you have made to promulgate new rules and issue orders that would have changed the current interpretation of IGRA. What has been universally acknowledged, including in your Economic Impact Analysis, is that these changes would have had a severe negative economic impact on tribal gaming operations, and therefore on tribes and surrounding communities.

It is our belief that the responsibility of maintaining the current law or amending it, lies with a new commission that will be constituted by President-elect Barack Obama. It would be highly unfair to burden a new commission with policies or enforcement actions implemented during this transition period. We do not believe it would be a wise expenditure of scarce resources for a new commission to either defend or amend such policies or actions that it did not develop or institute.

Dan Boren
Member of Congress

Respectfully yours,

Tom Cole
Member of Congress

DDB: wmk

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