



The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
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July 5, 2011

National Indian Gaming Commission
1440 L. Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004
Att: Lael Echo Hawk

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, we wish to convey our support for the proposed revisions to Parts 543 and 547 of the NIGC's regulations recently submitted for your consideration by the Tribal Gaming Working Group (TGWG). Additionally, we wish to extend our utmost appreciation to the Chair and members of the Commission for their willing to re-examine the NIGC's regulations, particularly in this instance, the Class II regulations.

Class II gaming is extremely important to all of Indian Country, which has played a key role in its development and success. We applaud the Commission for reaching out and seeking tribal input as to how best regulate Class II gaming technology in a manner that ensures integrity in Class II technology without compromising the authority and primacy of tribal gaming regulatory agencies. Indian Country assembled a working group with a high level of expertise in from various sectors of the tribal gaming industry with the broad base of knowledge needed to assist the NIGC in developing regulations consistent with its oversight function without compromising the regulatory framework intended in the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act. We are confident that the revisions to Parts 543 and 547 proposed by the TGWG provide a strong foundation for government-to-government consultation by the NIGC and tribal governments concerning Class II gaming.

Accordingly, we urge the Commission to give favorable consideration to the revisions as proposed by the TGWG and begin consultation with tribal governments on the proposed Class II regulatory revisions with a goal to timely adopt revised Class II regulations.

Sincerely,

Michael O. Finley
Chairman, Colville Business Council

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