



TULE RIVER INDIAN TRIBE OF CALIFORNIA

June 2, 2020

Senator Bill Dodd
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Dodd,

On behalf of the Tule River Tribe, we write in opposition to SCA 6. This bill would effectively repeal exclusive tribal gaming rights, threatening the lifeblood of tribal economies that provide healthcare, education, housing, public safety, and provide thousands of jobs to Californians. The Tule River Tribe stands in solidarity with numerous sovereign tribes who oppose SCA 6.

We are deeply disappointed that the authors of SCA 6 did not give sufficient time for tribal leaders to provide thoughtful feedback on this bill. Tule River Tribe did not have access to the language for SCA 6 until Thursday, May 28th, just four business days before the bill's scheduled hearing. At the same time, our leaders are struggling each day to manage a voluntary casino shutdown, the impact to our economy, and the health crisis of the COVID 19.

Had we been consulted, we would have raised the following points of concern:

- The legislature does not have the authority to allow California cardrooms to continue practices that are currently illegal. We have long held that practices at these cardrooms are tantamount to offering banked card games in violation of Penal Code 330, and which the California Constitution allows to be offered exclusively by California Tribal Governments operating under compacts that have been negotiated by the governor and ratified by the legislature.
- Online gaming is a complex issue, and tribal leaders should be consulted. SCA 6 does not reflect a deliberative process that included tribal leaders. The proponents of SCA 6 tout the bill as a "win" for tribes on the issue of online wagering, but the bill leaves several unaddressed questions and has several problems.

The bill sets up tribes for a competitive disadvantage, for example, by requiring tribes amend their compacts before they begin online gaming, which can take months or

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years. The bill meanwhile gives other operators a multi-year headstart on entering the market. Online gaming should not be a “cover” for the other provisions of the bill, which effectively appeal exclusive tribal gaming rights.

- SCA 6 would effectively appeal exclusive tribal gaming rights. This would be disastrous for the economies of many tribes, and have catastrophic human impact. At the Tule River Tribe, revenues from our Casino fund governments operations that provide for more than 3,000 people. Tule River’s gaming operations also provide thousands of jobs to Californians in Tulare County, and we are one of the county’s largest employers.

SCA 6 is being touted as a budget solution in light of the state’s dire fiscal condition, but the timing is off for this to work. Additional state revenues to be derived from online wagering or illicit cardrooms will not be realized in time to plug the hole in the state’s current budget.

The human impact to tribes, however, will be nearly immediate and continue long after the California economy has healed. Robbing tribal communities of exclusive gaming rights and damaging our economies will cause human suffering for tens of thousands who rely on tribal governments for social safety net programs or for jobs. This is especially true in historically-underserved communities, where tribal casinos are often among the largest employers.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge you to oppose SCA 6. Please do not hesitate to contact our lobbyist, Pamela Lopez, at 916 996 1329 or pamela@kstreet.us.com for any additional information.

Sincerely,



Neil Peyron, Chairman
Tule River Tribe