

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE



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Supervisor Chuck Washington Third District

June 9, 2020

The Honorable Anthony J. Portantino
Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 2006
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SCA 6 (Dodd) – OPPOSE

Dear Chairman Portantino:

This letter is sent on behalf of the County of Riverside Third District Supervisor's office in opposition to SCA 6 (Dodd), a measure that would severely impact our tribal government partners by infringing on their constitutional gaming rights, and subsequently, their ability to provide for their tribes and surrounding communities.

The development of tribal gaming has been one of the most important drivers of economic growth in Riverside County in the last two decades. Tribal governments throughout the county have made substantial investments and expanded their resort gaming facilities, adding new recreational opportunities and reaching out to draw new audiences and tourist dollars to the Inland Empire. In terms of local employment, a recent economic impact analysis by Beacon Economics for TASIN (tribes in Riverside, San Bernardino and Santa Barbara Counties) shows that just five tribes had a direct payroll of almost \$700 million.

Like tribal governments who voluntarily closed their gaming facilities to limit the spread of COVID-19, the County of Riverside, too, is reeling from the unprecedented toll this pandemic has had on our budget. We recognize that the state is also in a similar position. While these are trying times, this is not the time to abandon our principles by repealing tribal gaming rights and rewarding players that have a history of not following the law.

In recent years, card rooms and their owners have been penalized more than \$30 million by the federal Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) for failure to comply with anti-money laundering laws and for hiding profits to avoid taxes and contributing to gambling addiction programs. Money laundering laws are significant and exist to protect against terrorist activities, human trafficking, drug dealing and other crimes.

There are three gaming tribes in Riverside County's Third District – the Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians, the Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians and the Cahuilla Band of Indians. As a public servant since 1995, I have seen gaming tribes bring jobs and economic prosperity to Riverside County's Third District. Moreover, the tribes continually give back to the local community by investing in local nonprofits and infrastructure. I simply cannot support a measure that would undermine local tribes' ability to promote economic development and self-sufficiency, create local jobs and generate revenues at a time when we need it the most. This measure validates the conduct of entities that break the law. Finally, this measure breaks an agreement between tribes and the state through the passage of Proposition 1A in 2000 with 65% of the vote.

I am proud to stand with our tribal government partner in opposing SCA 6.

Sincerely,



Chuck Washington
Riverside County Third District Supervisor