

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

December 20, 2007

Chairman Philip N. Hogen  
National Indian Gaming Commission  
1441 L Street NW, Suite 9100  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Chairman Hogen and Members of the Commission:

We write with great concern over the four proposed rules on classification standards, technical standards, the definition of a facsimile, and minimum internal control standards (MICS) for Class II gaming the National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC) published in the *Federal Register* on October 24, 2007. As such, we respectfully request a six-month extension of the comment period currently set to expire on January 24, 2007. We believe this extension would provide a reasonable amount of time for tribes to comprehensively assess and communicate to the NIGC the full initial and residual impact these rules will have on Indian Country and provide suggestions for revisions.

We fully recognize and appreciate the significant amount of time, effort and collaboration all interested parties have invested in crafting these proposed rules since August 2006. It is clear that the NIGC is very aware of the tribes' concerns over sovereignty, self-governance, near and long-term financial sustainability, economic diversification, and tribal members' well-being which arise from these proposed rules. It is also clear that tribes, manufacturers, and the gaming industry are cognizant of the need to ensure tribes comply with the law and its intent with respect to Class II and Class III gaming.

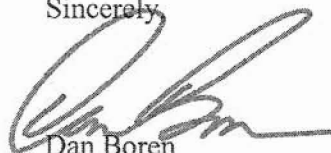
However, it has been brought to our attention that despite the extraordinary efforts thus far, the MICS Tribal Advisory Committee, the Technical Tribal Advisory Committee, and the Class II gaming manufacturers do not approve of the four proposed rules. In addition, the NIGC published these proposed rules before the tribal economic impact study commissioned by the NIGC was published. As such, we feel allowing a six month extension to the comment period beyond January 24, 2007, is reasonable, reflects the need to carefully scrutinize the impact such rules will have on Indian Country, and provides the NIGC the opportunity to revise these rules to the satisfaction of all interested parties.

Your consideration in this matter is greatly appreciated. Should you have any additional questions or need any additional information, please feel free to contact us.



Tom Cole  
Member of Congress

Sincerely,



Dan Boren  
Member of Congress