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2ND DISTRICT, OKLAHOMA

ASSISTANT DEMOCRATIC WHIP

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

December 20, 2007

COMMITTEE ON ARMED FORCES
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MONETARY POLICY, TRADE, AND TECHNOLOGY

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

Dear Chairman Hogan:

Thank you again for taking the time to meet with me on December 12, 2007 to discuss the proposed regulations for Class II gaming under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act. Class II gaming is of great importance to the Indian tribes in my District and to all tribes within the State of Oklahoma so I greatly appreciate your time and attention to my concerns.

As we discussed, I have been contacted by, and have met with, a number of tribes who uniformly expressed great concern over the subject matter of these proposed regulations and frustration over what they felt was a lack of consultation in developing them. The tribes have pointed to provisions in these regulations that substantively alter the statutory definitions of Class II gaming and have expressed concerns about retaining tribal sovereignty and the expressed purpose of IGRA. I understand that these proposed regulations were developed and published without a published economic impact study unique to these specific changes, and the tribes were only provided 45 days for comment, which has subsequently been extended an additional 45 days.

In the State of Oklahoma alone, Class II gaming has an economic impact of hundreds of millions, if not billions of dollars. It impacts virtually every tribe and every corner of our state. Regulations which would significantly impact an industry of that economic importance deserve careful consideration, and extensive consultation with all tribes. I remain deeply concerned that there has not been sufficient consideration of the economic impacts of these proposed regulations. In light of my concerns, I would ask that consider suspending consideration of these regulations until such time as you have adequately consulted with all affected tribes on these particular regulations. Only through such substantive discussion can regulations be developed that will provide the input useful to your agency while respecting the sovereignty of the tribes.

Again, I would like to thank you for taking the time to meet with me on this issue so important to my constituency.

Respectfully yours,

Dan Boren
Member of Congress

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2007 DEC 27 PM 4:45
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