



NATIONAL INDIAN GAMING ASSOCIATION

Rebuilding Communities Through Indian Self-Reliance

NATIONAL INDIAN GAMING ASSOCIATION RESOLUTION 1-PHX-GM-3-28-07

TITLE: Acknowledging The Successful Strategy Of NIGA Resolution 2 ABQ 4-4-06 And Resolving To Maintain That Approach To Addressing Future Attacks On The Integrity Of The Indian Gaming Regulatory Act

WHEREAS, the National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA) is an intertribal association of 184 federally recognized Indian Tribes established to protect Indian gaming and defend tribal sovereignty; and

WHEREAS, Indian tribes are governments that pre-date the United States and through the Indian Commerce Clause, Treaty Clause, and the Apportionment Clause, the Constitution of the United States recognizes the status of Indian Tribes as sovereigns; and

WHEREAS, tribal governments conduct gaming, just as State governments operate lotteries, as an exercise of inherent sovereign authority to generate revenue to fund tribal government infrastructure and services that provide for the general welfare of tribal citizens and rebuild tribal communities; and

WHEREAS, in 1988 Congress enacted the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA) to promote tribal economic self-sufficiency, strong tribal governments, and reflects a balance of tribal, federal, and state governmental interests; and

WHEREAS, in the 109th Congress, congressional leaders introduced H.R. 4893 and S.2078 to amend IGRA to address issues relating to off-reservation gaming and Indian gaming regulation; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 4893 and S.2078 would have harmed the integrity of IGRA and subordinated tribal governments to the demands of local municipalities, undermining the federal-tribal government to government relationship; and

WHEREAS, in April 2006, NIGA's tribal leadership met for three days during NIGA's Annual Trade Show and Membership Meeting in Albuquerque, NM to develop a strategy to address the proposed amendments to IGRA; and

WHEREAS, after three days of deliberation, the NIGA leadership adopted Resolution 2-ABQ 4-4-06, by a unanimous vote with 2 abstentions, resolving to oppose H.R. 4893 and S.2078, and urging the Department of Interior to promulgate regulations to implement IGRA Section 20 that respect the interests of both nearby Indian Tribes and those Tribes seeking off-reservation lands; and



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WHEREAS, the strategy developed in NIGA Resolution 2 ABQ 4-4-06 was carried out by the NIGA tribal leadership, and successfully worked to defeat both H.R. 4893 and S.2078, preserving the integrity of IGRA; and

WHEREAS, withdrawing from this position and altering NIGA's strategy will revive the proposals of the 109th Congress, and will result in future legislative attacks on IGRA; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NIGA reaffirms the position taken in Resolution 2 ABQ 4-4-06, and will continue to work with the Department of the Interior on its efforts to promulgate regulations to implement Section 20 of IGRA and to ensure that full consultation with Indian Tribes nationwide is accomplished prior to promulgation of a final rule.