



May 21, 2015

The Honorable Jimmy Gomez
Chairman, Assembly Committee on Appropriations
State Capitol, Room 2114
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chairman Gomez:

Our tribal governments write to oppose moving AB 431 (Gray) out of Appropriations Committee at this time.

Some of our tribal governments moved to "neutral" or "no position" before the bill was heard in the Assembly G.O. Committee on April 27 out of respect for Chairman Gray's leadership and the prior assurance that consensus would be sought before moving forward. Continuing to pass this measure as a spot bill does not advance a state regulatory structure for iPoker. The issues that divide stakeholders remain unresolved. Moving the bill at this time would be directly counterproductive to any internet poker effort, which we know is not the goal of the author, who has told us he desires to be the neutral party bringing stakeholders together on this issue, if indeed that is possible.

Legalization of iPoker is a significant public policy consideration with long-term implications for the State of California, its citizens, and our tribal governments. Although stakeholders have made progress in building consensus on some issues, important disagreements remain,

including eligibility for licensure and suitability standards that instill public trust and confidence in the integrity of the licensees.

While we appreciate the author's desire to move this legislation forward to meet deadlines, we note that a comprehensive iPoker bill would have significant fiscal impacts and impose new taxes that would be subject to a two-thirds vote requirement. Thus, the bill can accommodate an urgency clause so that committee deadlines would not apply. Chairman Gray will always have the ability to bring forward a bill with that urgency clause, to try to put together a final deal. For these reasons, we urge you to keep this vehicle in your committee.

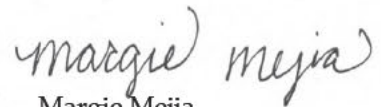
Sincerely,



Jeff Grubbe
Tribal Chairman
Agua Caliente Band of
Cahuilla Indians



Clifford LaChappa
Tribal Chairman
Barona Band of
Mission Indians



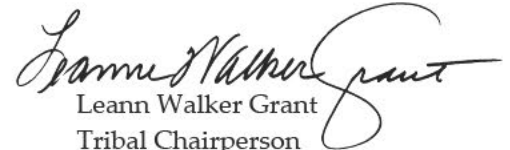
Margie Mejia
Tribal Chairwoman
Lytton Band of
Pomo Indians



Mark Macarro
Tribal Chairman
Pechanga Band of
Luiseño Indians



Cody J. Martinez
Tribal Chairman
Sycuan Band of
Kumeyaay Indians



Leann Walker Grant
Tribal Chairperson
Table Mountain
Rancheria



Sherry Treppa
Tribal Chairperson
Habematolel Pomo of
Upper Lake



Robert J. Welch, Jr.
Tribal Chairman
Viejas Band of
Kumeyaay Indians



Leland Kinter
Tribal Chairman
Yocha Dehe Wintun
Nation

cc: The Honorable Adam Gray, Chairman Assembly G.O. Committee
The Honorable Toni Atkins, Speaker of the Assembly
Members of the Assembly Committee on Appropriations