

MORONGO  
BAND OF  
MISSION  
INDIANS



A SOVEREIGN NATION

SAN MANUEL  
BAND OF MISSION INDIANS



THE  
COMMERCE  
HOTEL · CASINO



AMAYA



May 22, 2015

Assembly Member Jimmy Gomez  
Chair  
Assembly Appropriations Committee  
State Capitol Building, Room 2114  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 431 (Gray), Hearing Date: May 27**

Dear Assembly Member Gomez:

Our coalition, which includes the Morongo Band of Mission Indians, San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, California's three largest card clubs –Commerce Casino, Hawaiian Gardens Casino and Bicycle Casino – and Amaya Inc. which owns and operates PokerStars, supports passage of AB 431 out of the Assembly Appropriations Committee on May 27.

We strongly support authorizing online poker in California and commit to what we understand will be a deliberative process to develop, and ultimately approve, a bill in 2015 to authorize iPoker and establish a safe California market.

We know that finalizing the policy that will ultimately regulate California's online poker marketplace will not be quick, nor will it be easy. The stagnation of the last six years has made that obvious. But so far 2015 has been different. Hard lines and tough talk have morphed into open minds and dialogue.

Authorizing online poker will be good for millions of consumers and poker players who will benefit from a safe, regulated, commercial gaming environment where they are protected. Every year that California fails to act not only puts consumers at risk while playing online games from offshore localities that provide few protections and regulations, but our state also loses out on collecting hundreds of millions of dollars that can be used for essential programs like public schools, public safety, healthcare and social services.

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Our coalition is committed to putting in the hours and the time necessary to establish a vibrant, competitive marketplace, one that provides superior consumer protections, requires strict oversight and regulation of licensees, and service providers, and ensures that the state receives a reasonable return.

Sincerely,

Robert Martin, Chairman  
Morongo Band of Mission Indians

Lynn R. Valbuena, Chairwoman  
San Manuel Band of Mission Indians

Haig Papaian  
Commerce Casino

Ron Sarabi  
Hawaiian Gardens Casino

Hashem Minaiy  
Bicycle Casino

Steve Kraut  
PokerStars

cc: Assembly Member Adam Gray, Chair, Assembly Governmental Organization Committee  
Assembly Speaker Toni Atkins  
Assembly Appropriations Committee Members