

AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY

Community Government

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June 2, 2011

Ms. Tracy Stevens, Chairperson
National Indian Gaming Commission
1441 L Street, NW, Suite 9100
Washington, D.C. 20005

Re: Comments of the Ak-Chin Indian Community regarding NIGC's Tribal Consultation Policy

Sent via fax to 202-632-7045 and U.S. Mail – Attn: Kathy Zebell

Dear Chairperson Stevens,

The comments below are submitted on behalf of the Ak-Chin Indian Community (“Ak-Chin”) regarding the National Indian Gaming Commission’s (“NIGC”) Tribal Consultation Policy (“Policy”). First and foremost, we applaud the NIGC for developing a *meaningful* tribal consultation policy. This is a welcomed change from the past NIGC administration. We also appreciate the numerous consultation meetings that the NIGC has conducted with tribes to develop the Policy. Our comments below are general in nature, and not a section-by-section analysis.

We thank the NIGC for the Policy’s improved: Definitions, Consultation Principles, Consultation Guidance, and Accountability and Transparency, which will hopefully lead to a more robust and collaborative process between the NIGC and tribes. We appreciate that you recognize that tribes have been operating and regulating gaming operations for many years, and that tribes have developed a wealth of gaming experience and expertise wherein tribal gaming agencies are the primary tribal gaming regulators.

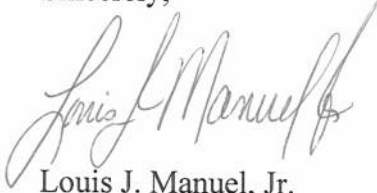
While the Policy complies with Executive Order 13175, we also request that the Policy incorporate several other federal laws and Executive Orders which apply to all federal agencies in their dealings with Indian tribes, including:

- The Federal Advisory Committee Act;
- The Unfunded Mandates Act;
- The Regulatory Flexibility Act; and
- Executive Orders 13497 and 12866.

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We believe that incorporation of the above will more fully complement the NIGC's Policy to move towards a real, true, and meaningful government-to-government relationship between the NIGC and tribes. Again, we thank you for the opportunity to comment on the development of this important Policy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Louis J. Manuel, Jr.", written in black ink.

Louis J. Manuel, Jr.

Chairman