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IN RE: Amendment to Metlakatla)
Indian Community's)
Gaming Ordinance)
_____)

APPEAL OF THE CHAIRMAN'S DISAPPROVAL
OF THE METLAKATLA INDIAN COMMUNITY'S
PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO ITS CLASS II
GAMING ORDINANCE

DECLARATION OF MAYOR KARL S. COOK, Jr.

1. My name is Karl S. Cook, Jr. I am the Mayor of the Metlakatla Indian
Community of the Annette Islands Reserve. I have served on the Metlakatla Tribal
Council for many years and was Assistant Mayor until recently.

2. The Metlakatla Indian Community (the Tribe) is a Tsimpshian
Community which was founded in its modern form in 1887. In 1891, the United States
Congress recognized the Tribe by creating the Annette Islands Reserve, a Federal Indian
Reservation. The Reserve is approximately 17 miles long and 9 nine miles wide, and
covers approximately 86,000 acres. In 1916, a Presidential Proclamation defined the
maritime boundary of the Reserve to include the water surrounding the Annette Islands
for 3000 feet. The Reserve is located approximately midway between Seattle,
Washington, 600 miles to the South and Skagway, Alaska, 600 miles to the North. The
Tribe was exempted from the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, and tribal members
are barred from the financial benefits of the Act. The Reserve is the only Federal Indian
Reservation remaining in Alaska today.

3. The Tribe is a federally recognized Indian tribe organized under the Indian
Reorganization Act, with a Constitution and Bylaws approved by the Secretary of the
Interior on August 23, 1944. The Tribe is governed by a twelve person Council, and a
Mayor, Secretary and Treasurer who are elected by the general voting membership of the
Tribe. The Council is responsible for providing for the general health, safety, and public
welfare of the Tribe, and operates a number of governmental programs including fire and
police protection, water, sewer and garbage service, electric power, streets and roads, and
health care. It also owns and operates its own power company. The Tribe regulates
commercial fishing in its waters, and also operates its own court system. Tribally-owned
enterprises make an important contribution to the provision of these basic governmental
services.

4. The total tribal enrollment is approximately 2,430, of which
approximately 1,673 live on the Reserve.

5. The Tribe has a mixed economy which includes a subsistence lifestyle. Salmon, halibut, cod, seaweed, clams and waterfowl are all important subsistence food sources.

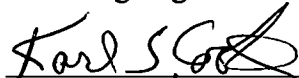
6. The Tribe has traditionally relied on timber and fishing to be self-sufficient. These markets have seen a rapid downturn in recent years, and the cannery and two sawmills which provided an important part of the economy have been closed. In the wake of the mill closure, the unemployment rate jumped from 5 percent to 80 percent. Before the closure, median income was approximately \$37,000 with 10 percent of residents living below the poverty level, but that number rose following the closure. Unemployment today stands at approximately 51 percent. Our unemployment rate is approximately 50 to 80 percent higher than most of the surrounding communities.

7. Our Tribe has a strong sense of mutual commitment, and we are pursuing a multi-faceted approach to economic development that will improve the quality of life of all of our members while maintaining our cultural values. In 1999, the Tribe was selected as an Empowerment Zone under the USDA's Rural Community Empowerment Program, which provides much needed tax incentives and grants for economic self-development. Tribally-owned enterprises currently include a fish hatchery, a water bottling plant, a quarry, a packing company, and a Class II bingo hall. The Community is continuing to pursue economic development initiatives in a number of areas, including tourism and natural resources.

8. The Tribe has recently been designated a Brownfields Showcase Community by the Brownfields National Partnership, and will use that status to assess, cleanup and redevelop brownfields sites on its Reserve, many of which result from the use of the Reserve by federal military agencies dating back to World War II. In addition, the Tribe continues to directly administer an outpatient health facility and a number of federal programs for the benefit of the Tribe.

9. The hundreds of thousands of dollars generated each year by our bingo hall are critically important to our economy. Those revenues have provided critically important jobs for our people both at the bingo hall and elsewhere, and they allow us to continue to fund essential governmental programs in a number of areas. Its continued vitality will continue to be critical as we move forward to diversify our economy.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.


The Honorable Karl S. Cook, Jr.
Mayor
Metlakatla Indian Community

Dated: 6/23/08