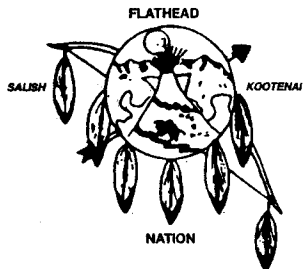


THE CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES  
OF THE FLATHEAD NATION

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February 22, 2005

Chairman Phil Hogen  
National Indian Gaming Commission  
1441 L Street NW  
Suite 9100  
Washington, DC 20005

**TRIBAL COUNCIL MEMBERS:**

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Ron Trahan

Re: February 10, 2005, Meeting with NIGC

Dear Chairman Hogen:

This letter is to confirm my understanding of our recent meeting on February 10, 2005, at Portland, Oregon, with the National Indian Gaming Commission ("NIGC").

First, as relayed by myself and our legal counsel, Daniel F. Decker, we were in Portland, Oregon, to attend the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Conference when it was discovered that NIGC would be convening tribal consultations after the ATNI Conference. NIGC's effort of virtually signing tribal representatives up for "consultation" the day before the sessions were to be held was not sufficient notice to our tribal government to discuss specific points of concern with the draft Class II regulations, nor did the last minute notice allow for deliberation with the Tribal Council of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes ("Tribes"). We did not and do not view our session with NIGC as a "government-to-government" consultation.

Second, it is my understanding, per Vice-Chairman Nelson Westin's statement, that the Tribal Advisory Committee ("TAC") process utilized by NIGC for the development of Class II regulations is not viewed by NIGC as a government-to-government consultation process. At which time, we reiterated Tribes preference for negotiated rule-making and that the Tribes remained concerned about NIGC's failure to comply with the Federal Advisory Committee Act in the formation and conducting of the TAC sessions.

If the above does not meet with your understanding please advise me as to the differences in our understanding.

Sincerely,

  
Lloyd Irvine  
Tribal Treasurer

