



MEMORANDUM

To: Chair Lively, Vice Chair Chaichi, Vice Chair Wright, Members of the House Interim Committee on Gambling Regulation

From: Gary E. George, Chairman, Oregon Tribal Gaming Alliance *GE*

Date: September 26, 2023

On behalf of the five sovereign tribes that comprise the Oregon Tribal Gaming Alliance, we request that the topics considered and discussed as a part of the Interim House Committee on Gambling Regulation remain focused on gambling that the State of Oregon and the State Legislature have the authority to regulate and legislate.

Tribal gaming is a federally regulated practice through the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA). Each tribe is a sovereign government with its own regulatory structure to comply with the federal law and our laws and standards.

The state legislature has no role in regulating tribal gaming. Any attempt to legislate tribal gaming encroaches on our rights as sovereign people. The state legislature does, and should be reviewing, how state-sponsored gambling is regulated and if the proper checks and balances are in place to adapt to the gambling industry today.

The purpose of this Committee, as we supported it initially, was to do a comprehensive review of state-sponsored gambling because it has expanded rapidly over the last decade without any oversight from the legislature, and with decisions that impact the lives of all Oregonians being made by ten senate-confirmed, governor-appointed Commissioners through the Oregon Racing Commission and the Oregon Lottery Commission.

The focus on state gaming is clearly under the state legislature's authority. The legislature should address the antiquated regulatory framework that threatens to unravel the balance that the state has worked strenuously to maintain. These are the issues that this Committee should be working on for the people of Oregon. In doing so, please respect our sovereignty and the national framework established to regulate tribal gaming, which is not the business of the Oregon State Legislature.