



# SOBOBA TRIBAL GAMING COMMISSION

February 21, 2012

Ms. Tracy Stevens, Chairwoman  
National Indian Gaming Commission  
14111 L Street NW, Ste. 9100  
Washington, DC 20005

Via Email: [reg.review@nigc.gov](mailto:reg.review@nigc.gov)

Re: Comment to NIGC's Proposed Regulations, Part 537, Parts 556 & 558, Part 502 and Part 573

Dear Ms. Stevens:

The Soboba Tribal Gaming Commission ("STGC") would like to thank the Commission for the opportunity to respond to the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking published in the Federal Register on December 22, 2011 regarding 25 CFR Parts 537, 556, 558 and the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking published in the Federal Register on December 27, 2011 regarding Part 502 and Part 573. We find the proposed revisions to be constructive and consistent with NIGC's obligation to work with tribes on a collaborative basis to ensure the integrity of tribal government gaming and to protect tribal assets. However, we do have a few brief comments outlined below.

- A. Part 537. With regard to Part § 537.3 Fees for Background Investigations, specifically, to subsection (d) deposits. We would like to suggest that clarification be provided as to what portion, if any, of the deposit will be returned. We understand that the unused balance of the deposit is contemplated to be returned; however, clarity may be warranted.
- B. Part 556. Regarding a comment recommending that applicants be required to provide a listing of all associations to which an applicant pays membership dues, the STGC is not in favor of this suggestion. The listing potentially could be voluminous and require additional time and cost to be borne by the STGC with little or no added benefit to the background investigation process.
- C. Part 558. With regard to Part §558.4 (a), the STGC would like to suggest that the term "employment" be changed to licensure, as the STGC issues licenses and does not employ key employees and/or primary management officials. The section currently reads, *(a) If, after the issuance of a gaming license, the Commission receives reliable information indicating that a key employee or a primary management official is not eligible for employment under § 556.5, the Commission shall notify the issuing tribe of the information.*

In closing, the STGC appreciates the opportunity to comment, and we look forward to working with the NIGC as it continues with the regulatory review process. If additional information is needed, please contact the undersigned at (951) 665-1000, ext. 199.

Cordially,

  
Celeste Hughes, Commission Chair

  
Jerry Peebles, Commissioner

Cc:

Soboba Tribal Council  
Jane Long, Soboba Tribal Attorney  
Forman & Associates

