



**First National Bank & Trust**

December 14, 2006

Mr. Philip N. Hogen  
Chairman  
National Indian Gaming Commission  
1441 L Street, NW  
Suite 9100  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Chairman Hogen:

I am writing to express my support for the Poarch Band Creek Indians on an important issue that profoundly affects the future of their Tribe.

It is my understanding that the Commission is considering changes in federal law that may find the gaming machines that the Tribe currently has at its facilities to be unacceptable. The future of the Tribe's economic well-being is dependent on the Commission's action, and I would urge that you consider what the Tribe has done to comply with the law and what it has done for those of us who are fortunate to be their neighbors.

Our State is one of the few in the nation that does not have a compact with its federally recognized tribe. The Poarch Band has asked repeatedly to have an opportunity to negotiate with the Governor, but to no avail.

Even without a compact, the Tribe has worked hard to build its gaming operations into a business that generates jobs for the Tribe and non-Tribal neighbors in the surrounding communities. Their gaming operations have made them self-sufficient, allowed them to develop other businesses, and added to the tax base. They are also incredibly generous in times of need. In short, they are great neighbors.

I know the Tribe to be honest citizens who endeavor to follow the letter of the law. This has put them at a disadvantage at times in Alabama where others are running Class III games that the Tribe is prohibited from operating. Nonetheless, they take their promise to do what is right very seriously, and I respect their commitment.

Chairman Hogen, if the Tribe cannot operate the machines it currently has, as well as the others that are so clearly permitted in our state, it will all but shut down its gaming operation. This will not be good for the Tribe, and it will not be good for Atmore and Alabama. I would respectfully ask you to consider allowing them to operate their machines and continue to provide jobs and economic opportunities.

Thank you for your kind consideration in the matter.

Respectfully yours,

  
Shepherd R. Marsh  
President

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NATIONAL INDIAN GAMING COMMISSION