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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **NIGC Welcomes William “Billy” Kirkland to the Commission**

**WASHINGTON, D.C., J u n e 1 , 2026** – The National Indian Gaming Commission welcomes [William “Billy” Kirkland](#) as the newest NIGC associate commissioner, appointed to a three-year term on Friday, May 29, 2026. Additionally, he continues to serve as the assistant secretary for Indian Affairs at the Department of the Interior.

Kirkland brings extensive experience in public service and federal policy to the commission. In his new role, he will support NIGC’s mission to regulate and uphold the integrity of Indian gaming in partnership with tribal governments. An enrolled member of the Navajo Nation, Kirkland, has provided strategic, results-driven support to Fortune 500 companies, political campaigns, and advocacy efforts across the country.

“The Trump administration supports tribal sovereignty and economic development. Gaming is an important contributor to the economic success of many tribes,” said Kirkland. “I look forward to working alongside my fellow commissioners and NIGC staff to support a strong regulatory framework that upholds the integrity and success of Indian gaming.”

NIGC Associate Commissioner Sharon Avery welcomed the appointment. “We are pleased to have Mr. Kirkland join the commission,” said Avery. “His background and commitment to public service will strengthen the agency’s work and strengthen our ongoing support to tribal gaming regulators.”

The [Indian Gaming Regulatory Act](#) established the National Indian Gaming Commission with three fulltime members, each serving three-year terms. The president appoints the commission chair with the advice and consent of the Senate, and the Secretary of the Interior appoints both associate members.

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*The National Indian Gaming Commission’s mission is to support tribal self-sufficiency and the integrity of Indian gaming through effective regulation. Together with tribes and states, NIGC regulates more than 500 gaming establishments operated by nearly 250 tribes across 29 states. To learn more, visit [www.nigc.gov](http://www.nigc.gov) and follow us on [Facebook](#), [X \(Twitter\)](#), and [LinkedIn](#).*