



Date: March 1, 2023

Re: Ribbon Town Event and Conference Center opening

Today I had the honor of participating in the Pokagon Band of Indian's celebration and ceremonies for the opening of the Tribe's Ribbon Town Event and Conference Center on the Tribe's lands in South Bend, Indiana.

Seeing the Tribe's new facilities and recently expanded game floor was a reminder of the Pokagon Band Gaming Commission's (PBGC) effective use of regulatory tools. Their innovative use of dedicated construction auditors to ensure high-quality and accountable construction practices in compliance with the Tribe's fiscal expectations and facility license requirements is one example. The PBGC also established a technology auditor team. By cultivating a high level of expertise in technology, PBGC is helping to protect tribal revenue with more transparent accounting and building patrons' trust in fair-play when the operation introduces new game play technology.

In addition, today was an opportunity to visit with the Pokagon Band Gaming Commissions' Chair Klemm, Vice Chair Alley, Commissioner Molnar and Commission Executive Director Vialpando. As one of one of only five tribes to currently hold a certificate of self-regulation from NIGC, the Tribe has unique insights into opportunities for innovation in Indian gaming's regulation.

Finally, as a Native person it was a personal honor to participate in the Tribe's morning sunrise ceremonies. As I travel back to Washington, D.C. it lifts my heart to have seen firsthand the strength of the cultural practices and values that are guiding the Tribe in its decision making and its focus.

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Visit [www.NIGC.gov](http://www.NIGC.gov) to learn more about the NIGC 3 For 35 Project— a year-long project emphasizing the importance of conversations among the tribal gaming regulatory community about workforce preparedness.

