June 28, 2022, Chairman Simermeyer addressed an audience of tribal gaming regulators, California state law enforcement officials, and federal regulators and prosecutors.

The San Manuel Tribal Nation Chairwoman Lynn Valbuena and its Gaming Commission Executive Director Adam Torres were gracious hosts and organizers for an important conversation around “Building a Culture of Compliance.”

I was grateful for the opportunity to share the National Indian Gaming Commission’s perspectives and cultivate partnerships across the compliance community. There is a shared value in protecting tribal assets derived from gaming. Threats to those assets are best mitigated by fully addressing the conditions that give rise to those risks. Partnerships across the compliance community can help lead to success in this area.

The presentation included insights into NIGC’s approach to Building a Culture of Compliance in Indian gaming’s regulatory community. I focused on the following:

- Building Partnerships with other federal offices in order to clearly create communications on policies such as recent NIGC Bulletins on the topics of Cannabis, Net Revenue Uses, and Human Trafficking.

- Targeting High Risk compliance matters threatening financial assets and found to be repeat audit findings in past years;

- Planning for organization-wide cybersecurity awareness by approaching the increases ransomware incidents through a three-part plan of reviewing existing NIGC regulatory requirements, enhancing technical assistance, facilitating a network across tribal internal and state gaming regulation technology experts and,

- Promoting a discussion on regulatory workforce needs and opportunities in order to have a forward looking plan to cultivate Indian gaming’s future regulatory workforce.

The event’s other presenters, its organizers, and its audience shared valuable insights around trends and best practices to address incidents of fraud and financial crimes.

Visit 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.