



December 16, 2021

***VIA EMAIL***

Scott Wheat, General Counsel  
Spokane Tribe of Indians  
Office of the Spokane Tribal Attorney  
23215 W. Long Lake Road  
Ford, WA 99013

**Re: Review of Amended and Restated Credit Agreement for the Spokane Tribe of Indians**

Dear Mr. Wheat:

This letter responds to your request of November 15, 2021, for the National Indian Gaming Commission's Office of General Counsel to review a credit agreement between the Spokane Tribe of Indians (Tribe) and U.S. Bank, National Association. Specifically, you have asked for my opinion whether the document is a management contract requiring the NIGC Chairman's approval under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA). You have also asked for my opinion whether the loan document violates IGRA's requirement that the Tribe have the sole proprietary interest in its gaming activity.

In my review, I considered the following submissions (the Loan Document) which is unexecuted, but represented to be in substantially final form:

- Amended and Restated Credit Agreement, marked in the upper right corner as "NIGC Draft 11/15/21" and at the bottom left corner as "4895-6559-3088\10".

The Loan Document contain terms similar to other agreements the Office of General Counsel has already reviewed and analyzed, which are available on the NIGC's website. Applying the same analysis here, it is my opinion that the Loan Document is not a management contract and does not require the approval of the NIGC Chairman. It is also my opinion that it does not violate IGRA's sole proprietary interest requirement.

It is my understanding that the draft is represented to be in substantially final form, and if the Loan Document changes in any material way prior to closing or is inconsistent with assumptions made herein, this opinion shall not apply. Further, this opinion is limited to the Loan Document listed above. This opinion does not include or extend to any other agreements not submitted for review.

*Scott Wheat, General Counsel*

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Please note that it is my intent that this letter be released to the public through the NIGC's website. If you have any objection to this disclosure, please provide a written statement explaining the grounds for the objection and highlighting the information that you believe should be withheld.<sup>1</sup> If you object on the grounds that the information qualifies as confidential commercial information subject to withholding under Exemption Four of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), please be advised that any withholding should be analyzed under the standard set forth in *Food Marketing Institute v. Argus Leader Media*.<sup>2</sup> Any claim of confidentiality should also be supported with "a statement or certification by an officer or authorized representative of the submitter."<sup>3</sup> Please submit any written objection to FOIASubmitterReply@nigc.gov **within thirty (30) days of the date of this letter**. After this time elapses, the letter will be made public and objections will no longer be considered.<sup>4</sup> If you need any additional guidance regarding potential grounds for withholding, please see the United States Department of Justice's Guide to the Freedom of Information Act at <https://www.justice.gov/oip/doj-guide-freedom-information-act-0>.

If you have any questions, please contact NIGC Senior Attorney Esther Dittler at (202) 853-7511 or by email at [Esther\\_Dittler@nigc.gov](mailto:Esther_Dittler@nigc.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Hoenig". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "M".

Michael Hoenig  
General Counsel

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<sup>1</sup> 25 C.F.R. § 517.7(c).

<sup>2</sup> 139 S. Ct. 2356 (2019).

<sup>3</sup> 25 C.F.R. § 517.7(d).

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*