



July 15, 2022

Re: Summer and Fall 2022 Outreach on NIGC Operations

Dear Tribal Leader,

This summer and fall the National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC) continues to host multiple ways to improve the Agency's planning processes through outreach. The outreach aims to engage tribal leaders, and Indian gaming stakeholders and it touches on both the NIGC budget and the NIGC's operations planning. The efforts are part of the NIGC's commitment to be innovative in its collaboration and to improve the Agency's efficiencies.<sup>1</sup>

In this letter are opportunities taking place during the summer and fall. These opportunities seek tribes' input on NIGC operational matters. The below listed items build on outreach started in recent summers. You may recall that starting in 2020 the NIGC has been establishing new forms of feedback on the NIGC's operational initiatives including region summits, operation briefings for tribal leaders, and an invitation to propose potential priorities for future NIGC budgets. With your feedback and support, these opportunities will continue to improve and remain reoccurring NIGC outreach efforts that shape the NIGC's operational planning.

### **Summer Summits — NIGC Regions**

The NIGC Region Directors recently hosted their annual video conference discussions with tribal representatives from within each of the eight NIGC regions. These Summits were announced earlier in the year and took place the week of July 11, 2022. Open conversations with NIGC's regional leadership help to improve the NIGC's planning in many ways. In particular, Summer Summit discussions highlight the impact from the Agency's goals and initiatives on local opportunities and concerns. The Summits also increase the local level focus in the NIGC's budget and operational initiatives planning.

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<sup>1</sup> As part of the NIGC Strategic Plan and the Agency's four areas of focus in recent years, the NIGC's multiple aims include the following two focus areas: *Agency Accountability*—meeting the public's expectation for administrative processes that uphold good governance practices; and, *Outreach* — cultivating opportunities for outreach to ensure well-informed Indian gaming policy development using tools such as diverse relationships and accessible resources.

### **Summer Summit — Self-Regulated Tribes**

The NIGC plans to hold its first Summer Summit for tribes with a NIGC certificate of self-regulation. Planning for this Summit is under way and will include a forthcoming communication to those tribes with a NIGC certificate of self-regulation. The Self-Regulated Tribes' Summit will be led by the Commission and engage in discussions around framing questions. How can the NIGC help to promote regulatory innovations taking place among tribes with a certificate of self-regulation? How can the NIGC better shape its training, operations policies, enforcement priorities, and technical assistance investments in order to better support tribes with a certificate of self-regulation? How can the NIGC use its certification process, its external communication programs, and its fee rate process to promote interest in petitions for certification?

### **Call for Written Feedback**

The NIGC will continue to invite tribal leaders' written views on two items related to the Commission's planning—the NIGC's process for developing its budget, and potential initiatives the Commission might incorporate as priorities into the coming fiscal year or future fiscal years' budgets. This commitment to facilitate a discussion will help improve the NIGC's insights when planning for the Agency's long-term future. The period to send written views begins now and will end on September 14, 2022. Please submit your ideas by email to [rita.homa@nigc.gov](mailto:rita.homa@nigc.gov).

### **Centralized Location for NIGC Resources and Updates on Planning and Reporting**

For the first time the NIGC will collect in a central location existing resources and newly created resources related to Agency operational planning and reporting. This collection of resource materials will help communicate key metrics and findings related to the Agency's operations as well as the Agency's planning processes. Some of the resources featured under the link will include the following: the FY 2023 NIGC Budget Justification commonly called the Green Book, a Chairman's video report on operational accomplishments under the Agency's four focus areas, a NIGC end of fiscal year operation's report, the NIGC prior year federal employee view point survey results, the NIGC Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2022-2026, and a NIGC Fact Sheet related to the Agency's operational costs and funding. The new section of the NIGC web page will be maintained by the Chief of Staff's office. The information will be updated regularly and new resources will be added as appropriate. I anticipate the new link will be active on [www.NIGC.gov](http://www.NIGC.gov) no later than the start of August 2022.

### **Fall Briefing Session for Tribal Leaders on Final FY 2023 Budget**

For the first time in recent years the Agency will hold a live briefing session once the Commission passes the Agency's final budget. This will occur after the NIGC releases for the public the past fiscal year's gross gaming revenue numbers—a release I anticipate will occur in August 2022. The Agency briefing will provide tribal leaders with an overview of the Fiscal Year 2023 Budget and the Budget's implications for coming fiscal years' fee rates and potential initiatives. I anticipate a future announcement for this event will be made later in Fall 2022.

**MAILING ADDRESS: NIGC/DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR** 1849 C Street NW, Mail Stop #1621 Washington, DC 20040 Tel: 202.632.7003 Fax: 202.632.7066

**REGIONAL OFFICES** Portland, OR; Sacramento, CA; Phoenix, AZ; St. Paul, MN; Tulsa, OK; Oklahoma City, OK; Rapid City, SD

**[WWW.NIGC.GOV](http://WWW.NIGC.GOV)**

I hope you and your team will find these resources and opportunities beneficial to meeting our shared regulatory commitments. If you or your team have questions please contact Ms. Rita Homa at (202) 418-9807 or by email at [rita.homa@nigc.gov](mailto:rita.homa@nigc.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "E. Sequoyah Simermeyer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "E".

E. Sequoyah Simermeyer  
Chairman

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