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HEADLINE: PREPARED TESTIMONY OF HAROLD A. MONTEAU CHAIRMAN
NATIONAL INDIAN GAMING COMMISSION

BODY:

My name is Harold Monteau. I am Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Commission. With me today is Associate Commissioner Jana McKeag.

If enacted, S. 487 would supersede Public Law 100-497, The Indian Gaming Regulation reviews and approves Class II and III tribal gaming ordinances and management contracts. In addition, it has the authority to impose civil penalties or to close a gaming establishment for substantial violations of the 1988 Act, reg2 06/22/95 interest in, or management responsibility for Class II management contracts, unless the contracts combines Class II and Class III activities. The Commission does not have the authority to conduct background investigated in S. 487 provide for: the establishment of a

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new Federal Indian Regulatory Gaming Commission (FIRGC), the regulation of gaming activities by tribes, the establishment of Federal minimum standards, the compacting of Class III gaming, for regulating Class II gaming activities over Indian lands. The Commission supports this overall approach. The amendments also enhance and strengthen the Federal, tribal and state involvement in the overall gaming regulatory process. T Indian tribes. It is respectful of Tribal sovereignty.

The compacting provisions for Class III gaming, likewise, would provide a non-compulsory mechanism for tribes and states to establish procedures for the conduct of such gaming actse have been contentious issues for the tribes and the states, and have delayed the benefits of tribal economic development envisioned in the 1988 Act, through gaming.

S. 487 proposes to change the way Commissioners are appointed. It altive officer of the Commission. Certain powers that were conferred under the 1988 Act on the Chairman would be exercised by the full Commission with the enactment of these amendments.

The fundamental nature of the operation and scope ors are appointed and the minimum standards are established, the existing regulatory framework is to be followed. Also, the existing Commissioners serve until they are replaced or nominated through the new process.

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