



September 17, 2015

Reggie Lewis
Chairman of Interim Council
Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians
8080 N. Palm Avenue, Suite 207
Fresno, CA 93711

**Re: LETTER OF CONCERN –Violation of the Tribal Gaming Ordinance of the
Picayune Rancheria of the Chukchansi Indians, Resolution 2010-22**

Dear Chairman Lewis:

I am writing to express concern over the resignation of Norman DesRosiers as Chairman of the Picayune Tribal Gaming Commission on September 15, 2015, and Commissioner Harlan Goodson's subsequent resignation. Mr. DesRosiers cited the Picayune Tribal Council's interference in the hiring and removal process of the executive director of the Gaming Commission as the basis for his resignation.

Such interference, if true, is a violation of Sections 4.26.1 and 4.26.2 of the Tribal Gaming Ordinance of the Picayune Rancheria of the Chukchansi Indians, Resolution No. 2010-22, approved by the Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Commission April 16, 2010. Section 4 of the Picayune Tribal Gaming Ordinance establishes the Tribal Gaming Commission and outlines its powers and duties. Specifically, sections 4.26.1 and 4.26.2 provide:

Executive Director

Hiring. "The Executive director shall be selected by the Board of Commissioners and employed by the Tribal Gaming Commission.

Removal. The Executive Director may only be terminated by the Board of Commissioners with approval of the Tribal Council."

Under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act and NIGC regulations, the NIGC Chairman may issue a notice of violation to any person for violations of an approved tribal gaming ordinance or resolution. 25 U.S.C. § 2713(a); 25 C.F.R. § 573.3(a).

The Tribal Council's action causes the NIGC great concern. The Tribal Council's interference in the Tribal Gaming Commission's choice of an executive director undermines the independence of the Tribal Gaming Commission. We received notice from Khmaphila Chhom on September 15, 2015, that effective that day she was no longer the Executive Director of the Tribal Gaming Commission because of decisions of the Tribal Council. Her departure along with the sudden resignation of members of the Tribal Gaming Commission leaves the Tribe without a functioning regulatory body. Finally, the Tribal Council's willingness to violate its

own tribal gaming laws, particularly while negotiating the settlement of existing NIGC enforcement actions, is alarming. These concerns have direct impact on the Division of Compliance's recommendation to the Chairman on whether a settlement agreement should be entered into with the Tribe.

As you know, the stability of the Tribal government and the related ability for the Tribal gaming commission to perform its regulatory responsibilities is an ongoing subject of settlement discussion.

Please respond to the NIGC's concerns as soon as practicable but no later than October 1, 2015. A response may be sent via email to douglas_hatfield@nigc.gov or U.S. mail:

National Indian Gaming Commission
Attn: Douglas Hatfield
C/O Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Mail Stop #1621
Washington, DC 20240

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 632-7003.

Sincerely,


Douglas Hatfield
Director of Compliance

Cc: Lael R. Echo-Hawk
Picayune Tribal Gaming Commission