



Stand Up For California!

"Citizens making a difference"

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Cheryl Schmit, Co-Director
Patty Neifer, Co-Director

June 11, 2001

RE: Support for AB 66

To all members of the California State Senate:

Stand Up For California is writing to you today in support of Assembly Bill 66 author Herb Wesson, for the appropriation of funds for the California Gambling Control Commission. This is a necessary and newly formed Commission that needs these funds to fulfill their obligations to the State of California and her citizens.

The urgency of this bill is clear. There is an immediate need to evaluate and determine the overall impact on the current developing gambling industry, public safety concerns and the social and moral responsibility of the State. Who better to fulfill this, than an appointed, operational and fully funded Gambling Control Commission? Or are we to allow gaming operations and their legislative spokespersons to determine the gaming policy as well as what impacts on the citizens of California are acceptable?

Gambling is a cash intensive business that must be highly regulated to ensure the public of the integrity of the games played. Regulation is important to both contain and regulate gambling to avoid the social ills that it engenders, including crime, money laundering and addiction. There is one legitimate reason for government to regulate the gambling industry; be that California Card Clubs, Tribal Casinos, State Lottery or Horseracing, it is the protection of the public's health, safety and financial security. No Legislator to a moral certainty should vote in favor of gaming interests over the safety of the public and good working order of the state.

Stand Up For California seeks the assurance of appropriate regulatory policy, and leadership in the development of gambling policy. Assembly Bill 66 advances a fundamental need to arrive at responsible gambling policy.

Please list Stand Up For California in support of AB 66 without any new amendments, which we believe, may violate and make void the tribal state compact.

Sincerely,

Cheryl A. Schmit
Co Director,
916-663-3207

CC: Chairman John Hensley, California Gambling Control Commission