



September 7, 1999

The Honorable Herb Wesson
California State Assembly
Capitol Bldg #2179
Sacramento, CA 95814

Fax: (916) 319-2147

Dear Assemblyman Wesson:

Re: Senate Constitutional Amendment 11 (Burton-Villaraigosa)

Senate Constitutional Amendment 11 requires that tribes negotiate compacts with the Governor which are then subject to ratification by the Legislature. SCA 11 will allow for the operation of slot machines and the conduct of lottery and banking card games by Indian tribes on Indian lands in California in accordance with federal law. This language addresses the scope of gaming question which the California Supreme Court found unconstitutional in Proposition 5.

The Cabazon tribe is known for its relentless defense of sovereignty and rights. As Cabazon chairman, I promised our members, employees, friends and supporters in California to defend our honor by whatever means.

Most of California's tribes were close to a tentative compromise last week. The compact isn't perfect, but we continue to negotiate and strongly believe a compromise will be struck shortly which is good for the tribes and the State.

The United States Attorney for the Central District will soon close down the operations of tribes in our district if we do not have compacts. In order for those compacts to be official, this constitutional amendment is required.

The Cabazon Band of Mission Indians strongly supports SCA 11 as the fair and equitable resolution of this issue. Please add your voice to those in support of justice and economic self-reliance for California's Native American tribes. **Vote "Yes" for SCA 11** (as currently drafted and attached).

Respectfully,

John A. James
Tribal Chairman

JAJ/sp



COMMITTEE ON MORAL CONCERNS

Art Croney, *Executive Director / Lobbyist*
Office: (916) 446-5131
FAX: (916) 446-5744



P.O. Box 2768
Sacramento, CA 95812

September 9, 1999

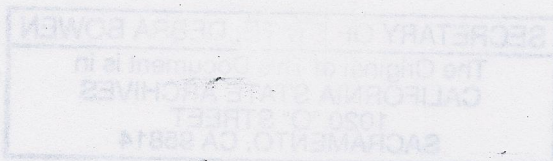
Third Reading

Please vote **NO** on SCA 11 (Burton); casino legalization.

This bill would legalize Nevada-style casinos on Indian lands. The Committee On Moral Concerns opposes this bill for the following reasons:

1. This constitutional amendment will legalize slot machines, banking and percentage games, and lottery games on Indian lands. These are the most addictive and harmful forms of gambling.
2. Approximately 5% of people age 16 - 75 become compulsive gamblers when these forms of gambling become legal and convenient. Depending on how rapidly new casinos appear, this measure may cause the destruction of up to 1,066,400 California families in the current generation. Many more problem gamblers will damage themselves and their families, but recover eventually. There is enough human suffering in our state without amending the constitution to guarantee more.
3. We have nothing against the Indians who support this measure, but they need to find a legitimate source of income. There is more economic opportunity in California than any other time or place in human history. We encourage them to break their fixation with this socially destructive endeavor.

Art Croney



A/C G.O.
SCA 11 1999