

San Manuel Band of Mission Indians

May 3, 2012

Honorable Rod Wright
Chairman
Senate Governmental Organization Committee
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5064
Sacramento, CA 95822

RE: SB 1463 (Wright/Steinberg) – OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED

Dear Senator Wright:

On behalf of the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, a federally-recognized Indian tribe, I am writing to inform you that we must respectfully oppose SB 1463 unless it is amended.


As a member of the California Online Poker Association (COPA), we have been working to obtain passage of legislation that would permit adults within the State of California to play poker on strictly-regulated, State-licensed websites owned and operated by business entities owned by California's trusted gaming partners: federally-recognized California tribal governments, California-licensed card clubs or combinations of the two.

We believe that regulating on-line poker will provide much needed protections to large numbers of Californians currently playing on-line poker at off-shore sites and also help California realize approximately \$200 - \$300 million dollars in revenue for the 2012-2013 budget, and more than \$1.4 billion over the next decade.

With respect to amendments, first and foremost the bill must be amended to ensure that it is limited to poker only, that there should be financial viability standards to ensure that operators aren't just merely serving as "false fronts," and that there should be presumptive suitability for current holders of state gaming licenses and by federally-recognized tribal governments, or a combination of such entities. Presumptive suitability will ensure a more expeditious start up for the state's trusted gaming partners which will in turn provide the state with an immediate economic benefit and player protections.

We look forward to working with you on making a SB 1463 a bill that we could eventually support. We welcome the opportunity to work with you on these items, but given our fundamental disagreement on many key points, we must respectfully oppose this measure until they are resolved.

Sincerely,



Carla Rodriguez
Chairperson

cc: Senate President pro Tempore Darrell Steinberg
Senate Minority Leader Bob Huff
Members of the Senate Governmental Organization Committee
Office of Governor Jerry Brown
Assembly Speaker John Perez
Assembly Minority Leader Connie Conway
COPA
San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Business Committee

