



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Tim Walz
Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan

130 State Capitol ♦ 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155-1611

April 20, 2021

Via email

Senator Gary H. Dahms
Chair
Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection
Room 2111, Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Avenue West
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Representative Zack Stephenson
Chair
House Commerce Finance and Policy
Room 503, State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Re: Report to the Legislature on the Status of Indian Gaming in 2020

Dear Senator Dahms and Representative Stephenson:

This report is submitted in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, section 3.9221, subdivision 5, which provides:

The governor, the attorney general, and the governor's designated representatives shall report to the house of representatives and senate committees having jurisdiction over gambling regulation annually. This report shall contain information on compacts negotiated, and an outline of prospective negotiations.

Minnesota Statutes, section 3.9221, subdivision 2, also specifies:

If the governor appoints designees to negotiate under this subdivision, the designees must include at least two members of the senate and two members of the house of representatives, two of whom must be the chairs of the senate and house of representatives standing committees with the jurisdiction over gambling policy.

There have been no requests to negotiate new compacts or renegotiate existing compacts pursuant to the federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act during 2020. Thus, there is nothing to report regarding the negotiation of compacts, or an outline of prospective negotiations.

According to the Minnesota Department of Public Safety's Alcohol and Gambling Enforcement Division ("AGED"), AGED executed four technical amendments this year. AGED executed three technical amendments to the Tribal State Compact for the Control of Class III Blackjack with the Lower Sioux Community Reservation in Minnesota, the Bois Forte Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, and the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. The technical amendments with each tribe are identical and stipulate that Blackjack must be played with at least one non-bordered deck of cards with backs of the same color and design and one colored cutting card. Before being put into play, the cards shall arrive at the gaming location sealed and wrapped. This

is not a novel topic and was originally addressed in 1990 with several tribes when a card vendor was not able to produce certain playing cards, and the property chose to use different decks.

AGED also executed a technical amendment to the Tribal State Compact for the Control of Class II Video Games of Chance with the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community in Minnesota. The amendment allows the tribe to operate video games of chance with single partitioned hard drives, rather than the two separate hard drives required under the current Compact. This update reflects new technological developments and ensures the integrity of electronic gaming devices. Similar amendments have already been executed by nine of the eleven federally recognized tribes in Minnesota. The Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians is currently in the process of executing a similar technical amendment with AGED.

Sincerely,



Tim Walz
Governor



Keith Ellison
Attorney General