



City of Emeryville

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OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

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March 25, 2019

The Honorable Xavier Becerra
California Attorney General
Department of Justice
PO Box 168024
Sacramento, CA 95816-8024

Dear Attorney General Becerra,

I write to share concerns regarding potential changes to gaming regulations which could negatively impact local economies throughout our state and the overall California economy. California's card clubs generate tens of millions of dollars in local revenue and provide hundreds of living-wage jobs in our community. Many cities throughout California rely on these tax revenues as their major source of revenue. In some cities, cardrooms provide as much as 80 percent of the city's general fund.

Frankly, I do not understand why specific changes to gaming regulations are necessary and why certain games are being singled out. As an Asian Pacific Islander elected official, I am particularly concerned about the impact these proposed changes may have on the API community in terms of employment and overall fairness. APIs make up a large portion of cardroom employees and many would be directly impacted if these legal games were not allowed.

I am urging your office to help preserve the jobs of hundreds of employees in cardrooms across California. Cardrooms are an important part of our community and supports many of local businesses, contributes to local charities and non-profit organizations and has a long record of partnering with the city and its public safety officials.

I am requesting the Bureau of Gambling Control reconsider potential changes to rules on card clubs in California. Thank you for your consideration of these concerns and request.

Sincerely,

Dianne Martinez
Councilmember