



FEDERATED INDIANS OF  
**GRATON**  
RANCHERIA

December 3, 2018

*Sent via Electronic and U.S. Mail (bgc\_regulations@doj.ca.gov)*

Stephanie Shimazu, Director  
Bureau of Gambling Control  
P.O. Box 168024  
Sacramento, CA 95816-8024

**Re: Banker Position Rotation Workshops**

**Dear Director Shimazu:**

I write on behalf of the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria to provide the Bureau of Gambling Control (Bureau) our Tribe's written comments for the regulatory workshops it is conducting on rotation of the player-dealer position in California's card rooms.

California law prohibits anyone other than a tribal nation with a tribal-state compact from playing banked card games. However, the card rooms have violated this prohibition for many years. By failing to enforce its own laws, the State continues to violate explicit and implicit promises contained in virtually all of the tribal-state gaming compacts.

Pursuant to Penal Code section §330.11, card rooms must rotate the banker position "continuously and systematically." For years now, the card rooms have actively circumvented this statutory requirement by hiring a third-party proposition player to sit at each table for an hour at a time and accept the banker position. In nearly every cardroom game the Bureau has approved, the rules require that the player-dealer position be offered or rotated every two hands. By failing to enforce section §330.11 and its own rules, the Bureau has allowed the card rooms to offer illegal banked games. It appears the Bureau is now staging workshops as a precursor to proposing new regulations to justify the illegal approvals it has been giving to cardrooms. We urge the Bureau to immediately enforce current law and not to use the regulatory process to continue to undermine black-letter law.

The Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria believes it is long past time to stop the card rooms' illegal gaming. We therefore ask the Bureau to enforce the law and respect the tribes' exclusive right to offer banked card games.

Sincerely,

Greg Sarris  
Chairman