From: luis martinez
To: BGC_Regulations
Subject: Commerce resident
Date: Wednesday, December 11, 2019 2:43:36 PM

[redacted]

December 10, 2019

Dear Attorney General Becerra:

I am writing you today to express my serious concern for the cardroom regulations changes recently proposed by the Bureau of Gambling Control. As written, these proposed regulations changes would have a devastating impact on the cardroom industry, my local community and tens of thousands of hard-working Californians across the state.

The games affected by these proposed changes are controlled games which have been approved and in play for many years, without harm or complaint. The revenue generated by these games is vital to the success of cardrooms and the success of many California communities like my own. We are very concerned about future of these proposed regulations and the major negative impact they would have on our city services, jobs, and local economy.

For decades, the cardroom in our city has contributed steady tax revenues, well-paying jobs and capital improvements locally. We urge you to consider the importance of California cardrooms to our communities and the repercussions these proposed regulations changes would have.

First, our local cardroom generates over 2,500 high quality jobs locally. Many of these jobs are living wage jobs that require little prior training in an underserved community. In addition, the cardroom in our community generates over $27 million dollars that benefits our local economy.

Second, the cardroom in our community contributes to vital local public services critical to our residents. In communities such as ours, cardroom table tax payments provide a significant portion of the local budget. These tax revenues help fund important local services such as police and fire protection, services for youth and seniors, park construction and maintenance and local road repairs. In the absence of cardroom tax payments, many California cities would have to cut valuable services to local residents.

Finally, in recent years many cardrooms have made multi-million upgrades to their facilities increasing local employment and providing non-gaming amenities to our communities. This ongoing investment improves our collective quality of life.

Over the last year, the Bureau has heard the pleas of thousands of hardworking Californians, local nonprofits, community groups, and elected officials from California communities who have urged the Bureau to recognize the devastating impact that regulations changes would have on their lives. We ask that the Bureau seriously consider all of the testimony you have heard and take into account the enormous impact this decision will have across California.

As the Bureau considers the proposed regulations that will significantly harm the revenues of cardrooms, we encourage you to recognize the positive impact of cardrooms and to work collaboratively with all stakeholders toward a sensible resolution that protects California's communities and the businesses vital to our continued prosperity.

Sincerely,

Commerce Resident

Sent from my iPhone