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CITY OF
VENTURA

City Council

Matt LaVere, Mayor

Sofia Rubalcava, Deputy Mayor

Lorrie Brown, Councilmember

Jim Friedman, Councilmember

Cheryl Heitmann, Councilmember

Erik Nasarenko, Councilmember

Christy Weir, Councilmember

December 10, 2019

The Honorable Xavier Becerra
Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General
P.O. Box 944255
Sacramento, CA 94244-2550

Dear Mr. Becerra,

As the Mayor for the City of Ventura, I am writing you 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 our local cardroom as well as our community.

The games affected by these proposed changes are controlled games which have been approved and in play in our jurisdiction for many years, without harm or complaint. The revenue generated by these games is vital to our local economy and would have a major impact 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 to their facility. We urge you to consider the importance of California cardrooms to our communities and the repercussions these proposed regulations changes would have.

Our local cardroom generates over 170 high quality jobs in the City of Ventura. In addition, the cardroom in our community generates over two million dollars in tax revenue to the City that benefits our local economy and 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, park construction and maintenance and local road repairs. In the absence of cardroom tax payments, we will have to cut valuable services to our residents.

As the Bureau considers the proposed regulations that will significantly harm the revenues of the City of Ventura, 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,



Matt LaVere
Mayor

cc: Assembly Member Monique Limón, Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, Bureau of Gambling Control