

November 24, 2014

Susanne George  
Research Analyst  
California Department of Justice  
Bureau of Gambling Control  
Sacramento, CA 95820

RE: Proposed Amendment to Gaming Activity Authorization Regulations

Dear Ms. George,

On behalf of the Turlock Poker Room & Casino, I am writing to inform you of our **OPPOSITION** to any proposed regulations that hinder a gambling establishment's ability to collect or waive fees as a such regulations would be a **JOB KILLER** in our community.

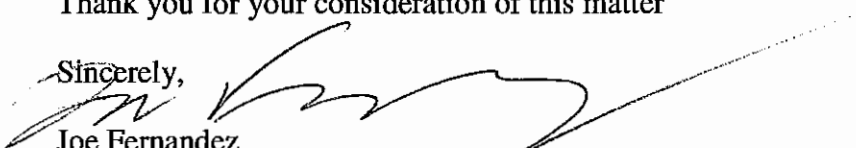
These proposed regulations would severely limit my ability to operate my business by mandating that I charge my customers certain collection fees per wager. Since the rise of tribal gaming after the passage of Proposition 1A in the year 2000, my business has had to adapt in order to compete with large tribal casinos who offer a variety of games that I cannot. For the past decade, I have had the ability to waive collection fees for my customers, and there is no reason why I should be forced to charge my customers more than my competition.

If the Bureau were to require that I must charge my customers certain fees, my business would be at a competitive disadvantage, and I would be forced to close my business due to a drastic loss of revenue. If a customer has a choice of whether they are going to pay a collection fee per wager or not, they will always prefer the casino that does not charge a collection fee. For the past few decades, my business has provided entertainment for the citizens of my community while also contributing living wage jobs and vital tax revenue. This all could be lost if these regulations become law.

No other gaming business in California is forced by law to charge their customers a fee per wager, and there is no rational basis for the Bureau to institute this discriminatory practice at the bequest of Special Interests that do not want to compete with other small businesses. This proposal is a form of regulatory price fixing, and it should not be tolerated. Responsible business owners in this state should be able to determine the fees that they want to charge their customers.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter

Sincerely,

  
Joe Fernandez

Owner, Turlock Poker Room & Casino