

Congressman Gallego Questions for the Record

Congressman Gallego: *Chief Harris--We heard a little bit about the gaming manager of this project, and it sounds like there may be some concern and possible confusion about who that may be. Can you please explain to the Committee who the tribe is partnering with on this project?*

Chief Harris: Thank you Congressman, I really appreciate the opportunity to set the record straight on this.

The gaming manager for this project is Delaware North. Delaware North is global leader in hospitality, with gaming operations in New York, Florida, West Virginia, Ohio and Arkansas. Our tribe believes the record of Delaware North is impeccable, based on the operation of its existing facilities. And I can assure the Committee that the Company is well aware of the federal rules and regulations imposed by the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, and they are prepared to meet those standards.

Let me also be clear: Wallace Cheeves is not involved in the gaming management of this facility. I will say this again, the Tribe has no management agreement with Wallace or his company. He is just the builder on this project.

Congressman Gallego: *Chief Harris, I want to clarify another important point: will your facility comply with the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act?*

Chief Harris: Thank you Mr. Chairman. This is something that I believe Chief Sneed and I are in total agreement. All tribal gaming facilities across the country should operate under the same rules and standards so that no one project can give the industry a black-eye.

So yes, Mr. Chairman, consistent with the decision provided by the Department of Interior in March, the Catawba Nation wants IGRA to apply to our facility in North Carolina. And that is exactly why Section 2 of this bill explicitly states that IGRA will apply to the Tribe in North Carolina.

It is frustrating to hear accusations that the Catawba Nation is trying to avoid IGRA when it is plain as day that we are making every effort--including seeking a new federal law--to comply with it. And as such, should there be any concern by the National Indian Gaming Commission about our partners in this endeavor, the Catawba Nation will abide by the decision of the NIGC to modify any agreements we have so as to allow complete and full compliance with the laws and regulations covering our future activities.