



TRIBAL ALLIANCE OF SOVEREIGN INDIAN NATIONS

An intergovernmental association of tribal governments throughout Southern California

February 5, 2025

Assemblymember James C. Ramos
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249

TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS:

AGUA CALIENTE BAND OF CAHUILLA INDIANS

AUGUSTINE BAND OF CAHUILLA INDIANS

CABAZON BAND OF CAHUILLA INDIANS

CAHUILLA BAND OF INDIANS

CHEMEHUEVI INDIAN TRIBE

MORONGO BAND OF MISSION INDIANS

PECHANGA BAND OF INDIANS

SAN MANUEL BAND OF MISSION INDIANS

SANTA ROSA BAND OF CAHUILLA INDIANS

SANTA YNEZ BAND OF CHUMASH INDIANS

SOBOBA BAND OF LUISEÑO INDIANS

TORRES MARTINEZ DESERT CAHUILLA INDIANS

TWENTY-NINE PALMS BAND OF MISSION INDIANS

RE: AB 221 (Ramos) - SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Ramos,

The Tribal Alliance of Sovereign Indian Nations (TASIN), an intergovernmental association of federally recognized tribal governments throughout Southern California, is pleased to co-sponsor your AB 221 and thanks you for carrying this vital piece of legislation. AB 221 would streamline the existing Tribal Nation Grant Fund (TNGF) process to provide annual equal distribution grants to all federal recognized tribes that either have no gaming (“nongaming”) or operate less than 350 Class III gaming devices (“limited gaming”).

After months of discussions and statewide meetings, tribal leaders reached consensus on the need to change state law to simplify and streamline the TNGF grant process. This new streamlined system would provide equal annual grants, paid quarterly, to all eligible federally recognized nongaming and limited gaming tribes that apply. Under AB 221, eligible tribes who apply would receive annual equal grants of \$600,000, or at least 85% of the available moneys in the fund - a nearly 55% increase in revenue sharing payments to eligible tribal governments. This funding would support vital tribal programs including effective self-governance, economic development, housing, vocational training, tribal education, public health and safety, renewable energy, water conservation, cultural preservation, and scholarships.

AB 221 is vital for economically disadvantaged tribes as it would provide a consistent equal distribution grant from the TNGF would help stabilize funding for eligible tribal governments. This would augment the existing \$1.1 million distribution from the Revenue Sharing Trust Fund (RSTF), pursuant to tribal-state gaming compacts, by \$600,000 or more per year. From 2000 through the fourth quarter of 2024, gaming tribes have contributed more than \$1.8 billion in RSTF payments to eligible nongaming and limited gaming tribes, pursuant to tribal-state compacts.

Streamlining the TNGF grant process is a policy priority for TASIN and tribes throughout California. We urge support for AB 221. Thank you.

Respectfully,

LYNN VALBUENA

Chairwoman

STEVEN ESTRADA

Secretary

CATALINA CHACON

Vice Chairman

ROSEMARY MORILLO

Treasurer

cc: Assembly G.O. Committee