



# State of New Mexico

Susana Martinez  
Governor

February 28, 2015

Senator Clemente Sanchez, Chair  
Representative Sharon Clahchischilliage, Vice-Chair  
Joint Committee on Compacts  
State Capitol Building  
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Re: Proposed 2015 Gaming Compact

Dear Senator Sanchez and Representative Clahchischilliage,

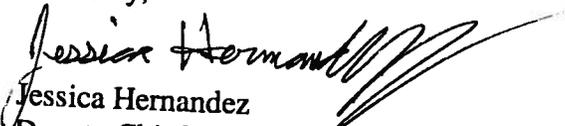
During today's hearing on the proposed 2015 gaming compact, Sen. George Munoz requested a reference to the section of New Mexico law that allows a tribe that is not an original party to a gaming compact to sign after it has been approved by the state legislature and the United States Department of Interior.

Section 4(J) of the Compact Negotiation Act, NMSA 1978, § 11-13A-4(J), provides:

If a request for negotiation of a compact or amendment is made and the proposed compact or amendment is identical to a compact or amendment previously approved by the legislature except for the name of the compacting tribe and the names of the persons to execute the compact or amendment on behalf of the tribe and on behalf of the state, the governor shall approve and sign the compact or amendment on behalf of the state without submitting the compact for approval pursuant to the provisions of this section. . . . A compact or amendment signed by the governor pursuant to this subsection is deemed approved by the legislature.

When tribes request to join an existing compact, this provision would apply. This assumes that the requesting tribe has lands in the State that the federal government has determined are eligible for gaming.

Sincerely,

  
Jessica Hernandez  
Deputy Chief of Staff/General Counsel  
Office of Governor Susana Martinez