

KEY BENEFITS OF TRIBAL SPORTS BETTING LEGISLATION

Tribes in Washington are seeking legislation authorizing sports wagering subject to tribal-state gaming compacts. Tribes are seeking this legislation to ensure sports gaming is regulated, safe and fair.

1. TRIBAL GAMING FUNDS ESSENTIAL SERVICES AND BENEFITS ALL WASHINGTONIANS

- Gaming revenue funds basic services such as education, natural resources, human services, and infrastructure investments.
- Tribes buy goods and services from their neighbors, employ non-Indians as the 7th largest employer in the state, and produce an estimated \$722 million in state and local government revenue. In 2017, the Indian economy in Washington state yielded more than \$5.3 billion in gross state product. Allowing sports betting at tribal facilities helps ensure their continued viability and benefits to neighboring communities and the State.
- WIGA tribes, Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, and Spokane Tribe of Indians all support this legislation.

2. GAMING IN WASHINGTON IS SAFE – LET’S BUILD ON A PROVEN AND TRUSTED STRUCTURE

- Regulating sports wagering under tribal/state compact agreements would utilize a proven structure that can ensure operations are conducted in a fair and honest manner.
- As with other forms of gambling, there are risks involving fair play, problem gambling, and financial sustainability. Tribes take these risks very seriously and are committed to preventing problems and, when problems arise, addressing them swiftly.
- Tribes and tribal casinos have donated more than \$19 million since 2008 to support responsible gambling education, prevention, treatment and wellness programs. Tribes are also tackling problem gambling through prevention programs, awareness-building campaigns, casino self-exclusions, and ban requests. This important work would continue and expand, subject to tribal-state gaming compacts, if sports betting is authorized.
- Illegal sports betting is already taking place. A fair, regulated system is needed to ensure integrity and fairness.

3. SPORTS BETTING SHOULDN'T BE EVERYWHERE

- Maverick Gaming, an out-of-state commercial operator, wants to dramatically expand the gambling footprint in Washington. Voters are staunchly against 'gambling everywhere' proposals. They are tolerant of the current levels of gambling because it is limited primarily to tribal facilities and effectively regulated, but do not want gambling everywhere.
- Under the tribal bill, sports betting would simply be an additional game offered by tribal facilities.

4. COMMERCIAL SPORTS BETTING WOULD BE BAD FOR WASHINGTON

- Tax monies and revenue generated from tribal casinos stay in Washington and benefit both tribal and non-tribal communities. Maverick Gaming is a Las Vegas-based business. Allowing sports betting through out-of-state commercial operators will largely benefit out-of-state/country interests.
- Tribes provide living wage jobs, opportunities for advancement, and fulfilling careers that benefit individuals, families, and communities. Allowing commercial sports betting could undermine these established business enterprises and career opportunities.
- Some have suggested that only commercial gaming would generate revenue for 'good causes.' Tribal governments are good causes, and tribal gaming revenue goes to tribal communities and problem gambling programming. Gaming revenue is crucial for Indian reservations, which have been some of the most economically disadvantaged areas in Washington.



The Washington Indian Gaming Association (WIGA) is a non-profit Indian gaming trade association representing federally recognized tribes in the state of Washington committed to advancing the lives of Indian peoples — economically, socially, and politically.