



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **National Indian Gaming Commission Approves Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas' Class II Gaming Ordinance**

(Alabama-Coushatta Indian Reservation - Oct. 27, 2015) - The U.S. Department of Interior (DOI) in coordination with the National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC) has affirmed the right of the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas to operate a Class II gaming facility on tribal lands pursuant to the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act.

The tiered classification system for gaming applies only to Indian gaming regulated by the federal government's National Indian Gaming Commission. Generally, Class I is considered traditional and ceremonial activities, Class II typically includes bingo and electronically aided versions of bingo, and Class III refers to casino style gaming with agreements negotiated with the State of jurisdiction.

The Alabama-Coushatta Tribe has sought approval at the state and federal level since the closure of the Tribe's Entertainment Center in 2002. This approval provides clarification that the Tribe is able to provide Class II games pursuant to the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act. In addition, the National Indian Gaming Commission will provide regulatory oversight to the Tribe's Class II gaming facility.

"Past Tribal Councils have worked hard to get where we are today with this approval. The Tribe's perseverance has paid off. It is a testament to the dedication and support of our Tribal Members that helped accomplish such a major milestone in our tribal history. A Class II facility will allow the Tribe to better address the needs and functions of the Tribal government, and take care of our people," said Nita Battise, Tribal Chairperson of the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe.

"Not only will it benefit the Tribe, it will benefit the entire region in southeast Texas because an entertainment business attracts visitors to the region and we will be able to provide employment in the area." Battise added.

#### **ABOUT THE ALABAMA-COUSHATTA TRIBE**

The Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, is a federally recognized tribe with the oldest reservation in the State of Texas. Their original lands were granted to the Tribes at the end of the fight for Texas Independence with the support of General Sam Houston. Their reservation is located on approximately 10,200 acres in the Big Thicket of Southeast Texas, 17 miles east of the city of Livingston on U.S. Highway 190. They are one of only three federally recognized tribes located in Texas.

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