



“YES Pledge” Not a CNIGA Initiative

TO: All California Federally Recognized Tribes

FROM: James Siva, Chairman

DATE: September 24, 2025

RE: “YES Pledge” Not a CNIGA Initiative

It has come to our attention that recent reports and invitations have circulated regarding the so-called “YES Pledge” campaign for online sports betting. I want to be clear: CNIGA did not originate this “pledge.”

While CNIGA fully supports the principles of tribal sovereignty and the right of each Tribal Nation to determine its own path in gaming, this effort appears to be a corporate-driven maneuver that has referenced tribal organizations, including CNIGA, in ways that may cause confusion among tribes, policymakers, and the public.

To avoid any misunderstanding, please note the following:

- CNIGA has not endorsed or authorized the “YES Pledge.”
- The campaign is not being led, sponsored, or advanced by CNIGA.
- The sovereignty of Tribal Nations must remain paramount. Decisions about the future of online sports betting in California must be made in a tribally driven, transparent manner that benefits all tribes—not dictated by outside corporate interests.

CNIGA has established a Sports Wagering Steering Committee. This committee is open to all 109 federally recognized tribes in California and is tribally led and tribally driven. The committee is actively working through the exact mentioned core commitments, among other principles, that protect sovereignty, ensure fairness for all tribes, and provide strong consumer protections. This work represents the inclusive, collaborative process that CNIGA supports, ensuring that any path forward on sports wagering reflects the voice and interests of Indian Country—not outside corporate entities.

As Chairman, I reaffirm CNIGA’s mission to protect and promote tribal government gaming. Any future discussions regarding sports wagering must be tribally led and not corporately manufactured.

We encourage all members to exercise caution regarding these efforts. CNIGA remains committed to working collaboratively and transparently on behalf of our member tribes and the enduring principles of tribal sovereignty.

Protecting the sovereign right of California tribes to operate gaming on their lands.