

House Business and Labor
Hon. Tom Berry, Chairman
63rd Montana State Legislature
Capitol Building
Helena, Montana

EXHIBIT 2
DATE 3/5/13
SB 120

March 6, 2013

RE: Senate Bill 120 "An Act increasing from one to three the number of liquor licenses that an individual may possess for on-premised consumption or off-premises consumption; Limiting expansion to ownership of 50% or less of the allowable licenses in a quota area and amending sections 16-4-205 and 16-4-401, MCA"

Chairman Berry and Committee Members:

Good morning my name is Shane Morigeau and I am here on behalf of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT or Tribes). The CSKT support the passage of SB 120, a bill that would authorize individuals and applicants to hold up to three liquor licenses, under regulated circumstances. We believe that SB 120 is an opportunity for reducing bureaucracy while encouraging business enhancement within the Montana economy.

The CSKT support this bill as we anticipate the opportunity to hold two (2) liquor licenses for two casinos on the reservation. These casinos employ a large number of local residents on both full and part time bases. The casino/gaming employees spend their wages in the nearby communities of Missoula, Polson, Ronan and Kalispell. Our employees are good for the economy as is the consistent draw of tourists to Tribal casinos, as they travel between Missoula and Kalispell on the way to Glacier Park.

The CSKT Tribes want to be on an equal footing with other local businesses and we believe this particular act does just that – levels the playing field for business related liquor licenses.

In the absence of this act, the Tribes and other similar businesses would need to enact a separate LLC for each liquor license which is cumbersome and duplicative from a business standpoint. A separate LLC requires filing additional forms and paperwork, which adds a bureaucratic burden a time when economic competitiveness is substantial. We support this bill and the effort by Edward Buttrey to streamline and clarify the license process. We also believe that the sponsor of this bill has taken steps to reach out to all players to ensure that this bill is fair for business owners and quota areas.

The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes support SB 120 and strongly encourage this Committee to pass this bill as a positive business action.

Sincerely,

Shane Morigeau
CSKT Tribal Lobbyist