

CHURCH STREET

FINANCIAL

2123 US Hwy 190 W
Livingston, TX 77351
Ph: (936) 327-7789
Fax: (936) 328-5485
www.ChurchStreetFinancial.com

April 17, 2019

The Honorable Ted Cruz
United States Senate
Russell Senate Office Building #404
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: H.R. 759 and the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas

Dear Senator Cruz,

The Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, through the operation of its Naskila Gaming facility, has proven to be a crucial part of the economic development in the region. They are now the third largest employer in Polk County. We need your assurance that these jobs, and the spinoff jobs created by this facility, are protected.

Representative Brian Babin (R-Woodville) filed H.R. 759, the Equal and Fair Opportunity Act of 2019, that will clarify the right of the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas to offer gaming on its tribal land and protect hundreds of Texas jobs. We need you to support similar language in the Senate that will assure the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas to receive the federal recognition they need to continue to operate Naskila Gaming.

Since the Tribe opened Naskila Gaming, an alcohol-free entertainment center featuring electronic bingo, in May 2016 it has grown to serve 1 million visitors a year. The Texas Forest Country Partnership, an economic development corporation for 12 southeast Texas counties, commissioned an analysis of the economic impact on not only Polk and Tyler counties, but the entire Deep East Texas region. The study found that Naskila Gaming had created a total of 561 fulltime jobs and injected a staggering \$139.6 million a year into the Texas economy.

It is vital to the entire community that the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas receive the federal protection to continue its Naskila Gaming operations. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Kole Puckett
Church Street Financial Services