Notice to Membership

Dear Tribal Members,

The Tribal Council writes you to provide an update on the status of the lawsuit Picayune filed to stop illegal gaming by North Fork. Today, the lower federal court issued an unfavorable ruling by declining to issue a preliminary injunction against North Fork. Although the federal court rejected key defenses raised by North Fork, the ruling is disappointing because the federal court based its decision on narrow procedural grounds. Notably, the lower federal court did not address the heart of the dispute: How can North Fork possibly conduct gaming when California voters rejected off-reservation gaming by North Fork when voting on Prop. 48? That issue remains unresolved.

Next steps: The lower federal court's decision is erroneous. Our legal team is preparing an appeal to the United States Court of Appeal for the Ninth Circuit to correct the legal mistakes made by the lower court, and to resolve the key issue under Prop. 48.

While it certainly would have been far more preferable to have an injunction in place, litigation is a process, setbacks occur, and appeals by both sides are expected and inevitable. The positive news is that Picayune is one step closer to a final decision that will vindicate the rights of all Tribal Members, and ensure North Fork follows the law.

The Tribal Council will provide a further update when available, including a timeline for the remaining litigation. In the meantime, rest assured that all necessary actions are being taken to protect the Tribe and its members. We will not stop fighting for us.

Sincerely,

Tribal Council



PRCI Website
Tribal Office: 559-412-5590
Tribal Council/CEDA Board Office: 559-760-0554 or 559-760-7400

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