

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **George Family Says Tlingit & Haida's June 5 Casino Press Release Was Misleading at Best and Does Not Match the Actual Record.**

#### **Jimmy George, Jr. says lease termination has been actively pursued since February 1, 2026 and calls for full transparency regarding the disputed casino project on George Family land**

**June 12, 2026 - Juneau, Alaska**

Jimmy George, Jr., tribal citizen and trust landowner, issued the following statement in response to Tlingit & Haida's June 5, 2026 press release regarding the soft opening of Two Coppers Casino:

"Tlingit & Haida's June 5 press release was misleading at best. However, that press release was not an isolated problem. It reflects a broader concern the George Family has raised for years: the public record being presented one way, while the Family's actual experience has been very different.

Since February 1, 2026, I have been putting the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the National Indian Gaming Commission, and Tlingit & Haida on direct written notice that, in my view, Tlingit & Haida is in material breach of the lease, that those breaches warrant termination, and that the current casino development was not approved in its present location or for its present apparent use.

Yet the Tribe chose to present the public with a very different story. The June 5 release stated that the Executive Council provided thoughtful leadership, approved the operating documents and organizational structure, and helped bring this project forward in a transparent and accountable way. I have since learned information indicating that Executive Council members may not have been fully informed about the opening and that the facility may have been opened despite concerns about doing so before running water and functioning bathrooms were in place.

If that information is accurate, then the public was given a misleading picture of how this project actually moved forward.

That is why I am speaking publicly now. Tlingit & Haida's version of events has already been repeated beyond Juneau and throughout gaming-industry media. My Family should not be forced to live with a public narrative that does not match the record. I also want the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the National Indian Gaming Commission to understand clearly that, once again, President Peterson and Tlingit & Haida leadership are presenting this matter publicly in a way that does not reflect the Family's actual experience or the written record we have been building since February 1.

That is why the June 5 press release is especially troubling. Public statements about transparency, accountability, and partnership should match the underlying record, the documents, and the experience of the trust landowners whose land is being used for this project.

Serious questions also remain about both safety and money. The Family has raised concerns about the apparent lack of reliable running water, reliance on portable toilets, unresolved fire-suppression questions, and other public-health-and-safety issues, including surveillance and on-site security concerns. The Family also understands that a significant percentage of gaming revenue may be committed to outside fees, expense streams, or related arrangements involving outside parties. If true, that raises serious questions under federal gaming law and reinforces why full production of all contracts, operating agreements, financing documents, and related arrangements is required.

The George Family is not willing to remain silent while a disputed project is publicly presented as transparent, accountable, and fully supported. The record should be examined carefully, and the public should be able to judge it based on the underlying documents, not public-relations language.

My position is clear. The lease-termination request is active. I am asking for full transparency, full contract disclosure, and meaningful accountability from Tlingit & Haida, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the National Indian Gaming Commission. I do not believe continued business activity should proceed on this land unless and until it is lawfully authorized, lawfully licensed, and safe for public use.

The public deserves the truth, not spin."

#### **Media Contact:**

Jimmy George, Jr.