

Norman. He is a member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe and also the executive director of NIGA.

The CHAIRMAN. Welcome.

Mr. COLOMBE. Thank you.

The Indian Gaming Regulatory Act is working. Indian gaming is highly regulated. At the tribal, State, and Federal levels, more than 3,350 expert regulators protect Indian gaming. Tribes employ former FBI and police officers, former State regulators from New Jersey, Nevada and other States, military officers, auditors and bank surveillance officers.

Tribes employ 2,800 regulators. State governments help regulate Indian gaming. States have over 500 regulators and police to regulate Indian gaming.

Phil Hogen, chairman of the NIGC, is a former U.S. attorney. Vice Chairman Nelson Westrin is a former executive director of Michigan Gaming Control Commission and State deputy attorney general. Commissioner Chuck Choney is a former FBI agent. NIGC employs 80 Federal regulators. Tribal governments employ state-of-the-art surveillance and security equipment. For example, the Pequot use the most advanced high technology available, including facial recognition, digital cameras and picture enhancement technology.

The Pequot system has more computer storage capacity than the IRS or the Library of Congress. The Pequots helped their State police after the tragic nightclub fire by enhancing a videotape so they could study the fire in detail. Tribes dedicate tremendous resources to Indian gaming regulation. Last year, tribes spent over \$290 million nationwide on regulation. That breaks down as \$228 million for tribal government regulation; \$55 million for State regulation; and \$12 million for Federal regulation.

Indian gaming is also protected by the FBI and the U.S. attorneys. Tribes work with financial crimes enforcement network to prevent money laundering. We work with the IRS to collect taxes, and we work with the Secret Service to prevent counterfeiting. We have stringent regulatory systems. Tribes meet or exceed any Federal or State requirement. We have strong regulation because our sovereign authority government resources and business reputations are at stake. If you have advice on how to improve our systems, we will review it with tribal leaders.

Now, let me tell you how regulation works in a casino. I say this as maybe the only former operator in the room here. I ran our tribe's casino. I built it. I financed it and operated it for 5 years under a contract with the National Indian Gaming Commission. At Rosebud, we have 21,000 people living on our reservation and 37,000 people total living in a 50-mile radius. In our casino and hotel, we employ approximately 200 people. We have 250 slots, about 8 table games, and 1 bingo hall. We are small and rural, but we follow the same rules and same internal controls that the largest casinos in the world follow.

IGRA and our tribal-State compact dictate that our internal controls are at least as stringent as the State's. Ours are more stringent. We have 24 regulators on our Gaming Commission. Our commission operates a surveillance system separately and independently. When you enter our property, we have 180 cameras. Every-

one is on-camera full-time from the parking lot to the casino floor to the cage. We have three full-time inspectors who have full access to the casino at all times.

South Dakota does our gaming background checks. South Dakota puts its State seal on our slot machines, which means we cannot change the payout percentage without a State regulator being present. We also have a slot tracking system that gives us full-time monitoring of coin or cash into a machine. That system also tells us how much money is in that machine at any time.

Some would look at Little Rosebud and say, you do not need to do all this stuff, but we do. Our casino was built, like many other Indian casinos, in a time when people thought we were incapable of running a gaming operation. So we did an overkill on regulation to ensure the public that these were honest and fair games.

We are a poor tribe, so no one wants our operation to be a success more than we do. No one wants to make sure our money gets to the bank more than we do. NIGA is engaged in a series of discussions with tribal leaders throughout the Nation. We invite you to our next meeting. We also invite you to come and visit our facilities so we can show you first-hand that our regulators are experts and our technology is state-of-the-art.

In closing, we work closely with the NIGC to ensure that we have the most productive regulation possible, and we work to preserve our sovereignty. We remember what our grandfathers have told us as boys: Protect the land and take care of the people.

Thank you again, and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.