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Ramos and Potter on signing of state's gaming compact with Redding Rancheria: negotiations respectful of tribal rights and ensure California's interests protected

SACRAMENTO—*Assemblymember James C. Ramos (D-San Bernardino) and Redding Rancheria Chairman Jack Potter Jr. issued the following statements following Gov. Gavin Newsom's approval of AB 854, the Redding Rancheria gaming compact. Redding Rancheria is a federally recognized tribe with Pit River, Wintu and Yana people.*

Ramos stated:

I thank the governor for approving AB 854 which ratifies the gaming compact between the State of California and Redding Rancheria for 25 years, effective immediately. Originally negotiated and ratified in 1999, the compact has enabled the tribe to maintain and operate a gaming facility. The original agreement was the result of a historic, hard-fought struggle to recognize tribal sovereignty, and it established a path toward self-sufficiency.

In the past, California sought to whittle away at tribal sovereignty in exchange for the gaming agreements. In contrast, these negotiations have been respectful of tribal rights while ensuring that California's interests are also protected.

I extend my congratulations to the Redding Rancheria tribal council and its Chairman Jack Potter Jr on achieving this successful milestone.

Potter stated:

The compact between Redding Rancheria and the State of California upholds the will of voters, who decided with prop 1A to protect gaming exclusivity for sovereign, federally

recognized tribes. Our tribe's gaming operation allows our government to exercise our sovereignty in the land of our ancestors. We use our gaming resources to support our tribal members and be generous neighbors and employers in our city and county.

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Assemblymember James C. Ramos proudly represents the 45th Assembly district which includes the Cities of Fontana, Highland, Mentone, Redlands, Rialto and San Bernardino. He is the first and only California Native American serving in the state's legislature. Ramos chairs the Assembly Committees on Rules.