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Poll Shows Public Overwhelmingly Supports New, Safer Technology for Casino Gaming Machines

OKLAHOMA CITY — A new poll released on Thursday shows that 80 percent of Oklahoma residents, both those who frequent and do not frequent casinos, are in support of safer, fairer and improved casino gaming machines in their state with over half strongly favoring the change. According to the poll, consumers firmly believe that gaming machines in Oklahoma should meet all standards set by gaming regulators.

The comprehensive, statewide poll also revealed that Oklahomans overwhelmingly support the introduction of new technologies to help ensure that payouts are accurate, free from errors, and payout according to the odds listed on the machines. Additionally, Oklahomans believe newer technologies will help prevent the machines, as electronic, online devices, from being corrupted by internet hackers. Furthermore, those polled were discouraged to learn that for the past 10 years people have been playing machines that are not as safe or secure as they could be because of delays in the implementation of the new technical standards for electronic gaming machines. Consumers also expressed the importance of newer technologies to ensure that Oklahomans receive their proper share of gaming dollars.

More than 10 years ago, the National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC) recognized the high security risks associated with continuing to operate outdated and vulnerable gaming machines in tribal casinos. It required that newer and safer technology be installed for the protection of consumers and the tribal gaming industry. However, the manufacturers of these older machines were able to convince the NIGC to exempt and grandfather them for a period of 10 years. This timeframe has now expired, leading the manufacturers of obsolete machines to again push the NIGC to make the non-compliance permanent. The issue of continuing to allow these grandfathered gaming machines to operate extends far beyond Oklahoma as they could be distributed to tribal casinos in other states.

The poll, conducted by the Coalition for Fair Gaming, marks a concerted effort to make every online connected casino game more fair and secure. The poll was conducted via telephone from November 27 through November 29, 2018 and was taken among a statewide sample of 501 adult voters. Results have a margin of plus or minus 4.4 percentage points.

Visit fairnessfight.com for additional informative resources gathered by Coalition for Fair Gaming on the topic of safer, newer technology for casino gaming machines.

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About the Coalition for Fair Gaming

The Coalition for Fair Gaming is committed to providing the most technically advanced, fair and safe gaming systems possible for the protection of consumers and the tribal gaming industry that serves them. For more information, visit fairnessfight.com.