

Tab 3 – Written Comment Received before the Commission meeting on April 10, 2025

Jameson DeBolt  
Saehee Yim  
Rachel Rupnicki  
Hum Biswokarma  
Aaron Huang  
Meng Jia Wang  
W. McClane  
George Aranda  
Breanna Speri  
Eric Fenchel  
Ginger  
Vanny Kendall  
Pancho Juarez  
Garrett Okahar  
Helen Wu  
Jacqueline Su

**Griffin, Tina (GMB)**

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**From:** Jameson DeBolt <deboltjameson@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 9, 2025 8:44 AM  
**To:** AgencyWebsite (GMB)  
**Subject:** Self-exclusion Period

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External Email

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My name is Jameson DeBolt and I work for Maverick Gaming at Ace's Poker in Lakewood, Washington. I am in support of a rule change to allow a participant to change their self-exclusion term. At mini casinos in Washington it is set for when you self exclude yourself but some people are ready to come back at some point. Please allow this rule change to happen. Thank you

**Griffin, Tina (GMB)**

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**From:** Saehee Yim <hayahnggok@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 9, 2025 9:38 AM  
**To:** AgencyWebsite (GMB)  
**Subject:** Self-Exclusion

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External Email

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My name is Saehee Yim, a dealer at the Silver Dollar Casino-SeaTac.  
Due to work I can't attend the meeting regarding Self-Exclusion rule on  
Thursday, April 10th in Olympia at 9:30am.  
I humbly plead the Commissioners to consider to undo the current rule of Self-Exclusion.  
Under the current policy of Self-Exclusion, my company the Maverick has been losing a lot of business.  
Therefore it heavily impacts on my dairy life as a dealer. My major income rely on the tips from the  
players.  
In conclusion, Maverick provides a lot of jobs throughout the Washington state. Maverick deserves its  
favor. Thank you.

Sincerely  
Saehee Yim

Griffin, Tina (GMB)

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**From:** Rachel Rupnicki <rpnck@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 9, 2025 12:43 PM  
**To:** AgencyWebsite (GMB)  
**Subject:** Self-Exclusion reform

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External Email

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I hope this letter finds you well. My name is Rachel Wamego, and I have been a part of the gaming industry for over 30 years, working as General Manager at Crazy Moose Casino. I am writing to express my concern regarding the current self-exclusion program in Washington State and the unintended consequences it has on businesses like mine, as well as on the livelihoods of our employees.

While I understand that the self-exclusion program was designed to promote responsible gambling and protect individuals from harm, I would like to highlight a few specific concerns that I believe are having a significant negative impact on both the industry and its workforce:

1. **Inability for Players to Return:** The current system makes it extremely difficult for individuals who voluntarily chose to take a break from gaming to return once they have decided they are ready. There are many players who want to re-engage but are locked out by the rigid structure of the self-exclusion process, even though they no longer wish to self-exclude. This limits the potential customer base and directly impacts business growth.
2. **Players Seeking Alternatives:** Many of the players who are on the self-exclusion list are seeking alternative gaming options, such as tribal casinos, where they are not bound by the same restrictions. As a result, card rooms like mine are losing revenue and customer loyalty, which hinders the long-term success of the business.
3. **Loss of Talent:** The rigidity of Washington's self-exclusion program is not only affecting businesses, but it is also pushing talented employees to relocate to states with more flexible gaming regulations. Several team members have expressed frustration with the lack of career opportunities and the restrictive regulatory environment in Washington, forcing them to seek employment elsewhere. This loss of skilled workers is detrimental to the industry and local communities.
4. **Negative Impact on Business Growth:** The inability to grow and retain a loyal customer base, combined with the outflow of experienced employees, significantly hampers the potential for expansion within the card room sector. The industry's growth potential is stunted by regulations that do not allow for sufficient flexibility or adaptability in addressing players' needs.
5. **Need for Regulatory Reform:** I believe that the current self-exclusion program could be more effective if it included a review process after a set period, or implemented mandatory counseling before someone can be removed from the list. Such reforms would allow players who genuinely wish to return to the industry to do so, while maintaining safeguards against problem gambling.

Given these concerns, I respectfully urge the Commission to reconsider the current structure of the self-exclusion program and explore modifications that strike a balance between responsible gaming practices and the needs of the industry. More flexible regulations would benefit both players and businesses and allow for growth in a sustainable, responsible manner.

Thank you,

Rachel Wamego

Crazy Moose Casino

Griffin, Tina (GMB)

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**From:** biswokarma <sirpali71@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 9, 2025 12:48 PM  
**To:** AgencyWebsite (GMB)  
**Subject:** Change self expression period

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External Email

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Dear Gamling commission My Name is Hum Biswokarma dealer in Maverick casino SeaTac wa I am requesting today can allow players self exclusion period to our Maverick casino as like tribal casino please I need job I am the only one working in my family I have to take care of my family if they can return to our casino they play we have a job please allow change the length of their self exclusion as like tribal casino

Thank you

Hum Biswokarma

**Griffin, Tina (GMB)**

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**From:** Aaron Huang <aaronhuang1103@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 9, 2025 12:55 PM  
**To:** AgencyWebsite (GMB)  
**Subject:** Washington Gaming Commission April Agenda - Tab 3

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External Email

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Dear Commissioners,

i support the petition on Tab 3 of the agenda to allow customers who previously signed up for WA self-exclusion to be allowed to change their term.

It is their own free will to participate so their free will should not be ignored when they like to make changes to their term.

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Best Regards,  
Hung Huang

**Griffin, Tina (GMB)**

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**From:** Meng Jia Wang <jiajiawang0525@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 9, 2025 1:17 PM  
**To:** AgencyWebsite (GMB)  
**Subject:** April 2025 Agenda - Tab 3

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External Email

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Dear Washington Gaming Commission, As a long time WA cardroom's employee, I saw many of cardroom customers who signed the state-wide self exclusion and regretted the next day. Many of them now go to play at tribal casinos because they are still allowed to go there.

This did not help them to commit to what they signed up for but only hurting our income because they now spend money not with cardrooms but tribal casinos.

I support this petition to allow a customer to change their term on the self exclusion or even remove themselves as their own free will to. They didn't commit a crime when signing up for it so should not be forbidden on their free will to take themselves off the list.

Respectively, Meng Wang

Griffin, Tina (GMB)

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**From:** theodopolis <theodopolis@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 9, 2025 1:30 PM  
**To:** AgencyWebsite (GMB)  
**Subject:** Input on Self Exclusion rule change

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External Email

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Since the WSGC has implemented the Self Exclusion program I have watched the customer base in our mini casino steadily dwindle. Tons of players that used to be regular players no longer play in our mini casino, they signed up for the Self Exclusion, and now play in tribal casinos where they are not prohibited to play. I think that is extremely unfair that the Self Exclusion program does not apply to the tribal casinos, slot players comprise a much larger portion of the people with gambling problems than table games players do, so why are the tribal casinos not a part of this solution for problem gambling? Shouldn't they, at a minimum, be held to the same standard. I have run into many of our former guests outside of the mini casino I work at, and it is clear to me that many of them did not understand when they signing up for the state Self Exclusion program how permanent this process is and that it could not be undone, and they regret having signed up for it. Allowing them to change the original amount of time they signed up for would be a good solution to this problem, please consider this, and help me keep my job and food on the table for my family.

Thank you,  
W. McClane



**Griffin, Tina (GMB)**

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**From:** George Aranda <arandaga90@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 9, 2025 1:43 PM  
**To:** AgencyWebsite (GMB)  
**Subject:** Self-exclusion

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External Email

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Dear WSGC

I'm a manager at a card room in WA.

I've seen businesses shut down due to lack of business. I understand and respect the law but why is it that a person can exclude with us and go to tribes like nothing happen? Then whats the point of this if you are not really stopping people from gambling. I want to respect the people that excluded but also respect their decision to undo

We all make mistakes and we should be able to take back if we feel like it's the right thing to do.

George

Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer

**From:** Breanna Sperl <kobemagic2@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 9, 2025 1:55 PM  
**To:** AgencyWebsite (GMB)  
**Subject:** Self Exclusion impact on card rooms

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External Email

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I am writing to express concerns about the negative impact the current self-exclusion program is having on state-licensed card rooms.

While the intent of the self-exclusion program—to promote responsible gambling—is commendable, the practical implications for card rooms are significant. The exclusion of individuals from participating establishments directly reduces the customer base, leading to a loss of gaming revenue as well as ancillary income from food, beverage, and entertainment services. All Star Lanes & Casino is a Fun Center wrapped up all one destination. The self exclusion program designed with only gambling in mind, should not extend on to other revenues our establishment has to offer.

Additionally, maintaining and enforcing the self-exclusion list presents a major operational burden. Card room staff must constantly monitor and update the list, verify identities, and ensure compliance in fast-paced environments. This creates both logistical challenges and increased administrative costs, especially for smaller establishments with limited resources.

Perhaps most concerning is the fact that tribal casinos are not required to participate in the state's self-exclusion program. This creates an unfair competitive imbalance, as individuals excluded from card rooms are still free to gamble at tribal facilities. This disparity not only undermines the effectiveness of the program but also places state-licensed card rooms at a serious disadvantage.

We respectfully urge the Commission to review the current self-exclusion policy and consider adjustments that level the playing field while still supporting responsible gambling practices.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

**Griffin, Tina (GMB)**

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**From:** eric fenchel <efenchel68@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 9, 2025 2:35 PM  
**To:** AgencyWebsite (GMB)  
**Subject:** Self Exclusion program

External Email

Hello,

My name is Eric Fenchel. I have been employed in the small card room industry here in Washington since 2001, and have held a WSGC license for that duration. During this time I have made many friends and associates who are regular patrons to our businesses. Some, who I still keep in touch with today are entered into the self exclusion program. Many feel that they would like to return to playing in Washington's small card rooms, but because of the term they are held to, they have no recourse to change their mind. They do not understand why they are allowed to play at tribal casinos and not their local establishments. We are asking the commissioners to please give people the right end their self exclusion when they deem necessary, not be held accountable for a rule that was not clearly thought through on its creation.

Having two tribal advocates on the Washington State Gambling Commission is a clear conflict of interest for the small card room regulation that is to be enforced.

To make it short and simple, all small card rooms will shut down in Washington State in the next few years if the decline in business continues due to unreasonable regulations. The Gambling Commission exists to protect the all the citizens of the state. Not just the ones who have a gambling addiction. It exists to put in fair and safe regulations for those employed by the Gambling industry as well.

I appreciate your time in listening and reading this email, and I hope fairness, transparency, equality will prevail with your decision making and judgment.

Thank you sincerely,

Eric Fenchel

Griffin, Tina (GMB)

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**From:** ginny <ginny0036@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 9, 2025 2:48 PM  
**To:** AgencyWebsite (GMB)  
**Subject:** letter

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External Email

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I hope this letter finds you well. My name is Ginger, and I have been a part of the gaming industry for over 27 years, working as GM at Caribbean Casino. I am writing to express my concern regarding the current self-exclusion program in Washington State and the unintended consequences it has on businesses like mine, as well as on the livelihoods of our employees.

While I understand that the self-exclusion program was designed to promote responsible gambling and protect individuals from harm, I would like to highlight a few specific concerns that I believe are having a significant negative impact on both the industry and its workforce:

1. **Inability for Players to Return:** The current system makes it extremely difficult for individuals who voluntarily chose to take a break from gaming to return once they have decided they are ready. There are many players who want to re-engage but are locked out by the rigid structure of the self-exclusion process, even though they no longer wish to self-exclude. This limits the potential customer base and directly impacts business growth.
2. **Players Seeking Alternatives:** Many of the players who are on the self-exclusion list are seeking alternative gaming options, such as tribal casinos, where they are not bound by the same restrictions. As a result, card rooms like mine are losing revenue and customer loyalty, which hinders the long-term success of the business.
3. **Loss of Talent:** The rigidity of Washington's self-exclusion program is not only affecting businesses, but it is also pushing talented employees to relocate to states with more flexible gaming regulations. Several team members have expressed frustration with the lack of career opportunities and the restrictive regulatory environment in Washington, forcing them to seek employment elsewhere. This loss of skilled workers is detrimental to the industry and local communities.
4. **Negative Impact on Business Growth:** The inability to grow and retain a loyal customer base, combined with the outflow of experienced employees, significantly hampers the potential for expansion within the card room sector. The industry's growth potential is stunted by regulations that do not allow for sufficient flexibility or adaptability in addressing players' needs.
5. **Need for Regulatory Reform:** I believe that the current self-exclusion program could be more effective if it included a review process after a set period, or implemented mandatory counseling before someone can be removed from the list. Such reforms would allow players who genuinely wish to return to the industry to do so, while maintaining safeguards against problem gambling.

Given these concerns, I respectfully urge the Commission to reconsider the current structure of the self-exclusion program and explore modifications that strike a balance between responsible gaming practices and the needs of the industry. More flexible regulations would benefit both players and businesses and allow for growth in a sustainable, responsible manner.

I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you or any members of the Commission to discuss these concerns in greater detail. Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Thank you,  
Ginger

**Griffin, Tina (GMB)**

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**From:** Vanny Kendall <vannykendall@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 9, 2025 3:09 PM  
**To:** AgencyWebsite (GMB)  
**Subject:** RULES OF SELF-EXCLUSION

External Email

Sent from my iPhone Dear Sir and Ma'am !

Please Change the rules of Self-Exclusion because of these rules really affected me,my family and my livelihood. Business been very Slow and we are struggling and if this keep going on we will be out of Jobs. Please allow them to come back play have a good time in a certain time frame. THANK YOU VERY MUCH... Sincerely yours ,,, Vanny Kendall

**Griffin, Tina (GMB)**

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**From:** Pancho Juarez <juarez3377@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 9, 2025 3:28 PM  
**To:** AgencyWebsite (GMB)  
**Subject:** Card Room Self Exclusion Reduction

External Email

Hello,

My name is Jose Juarez have been employed in the small card room industry since September of last year. Many feel that they would like to return to playing in Washington's small card rooms, but because of the term they are held to, they have no recourse to change their mind. They do not understand why they are allowed to play at tribal casinos and not their local establishments. We are asking the commissioners to please give people the right end their self exclusion when they deem necessary, not be held accountable for a rule that was not clearly thought through on its creation.

Having two tribal advocates on the Washington State Gambling Commission is a clear conflict of interest for the small card room regulation that is to be enforced.

To make it short and simple, all small card rooms will shut down in Washington State in the next few years if the decline in business continues due to unreasonable regulations. The Gambling Commission exists to protect the all the citizens of the state. Not just the ones who have a gambling addiction. It exists to put in fair and safe regulations for those employed by the Gambling industry as well.

I appreciate your time in listening and reading this email, and I hope fairness, transparency, equality will prevail with your decision making and judgment.

Thank you sincerely,

Jose Juarez



**Griffin, Tina (GMB)**

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**From:** GARRETT OKAHARA <mtseat@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 9, 2025 4:11 PM  
**To:** AgencyWebsite (GMB)  
**Subject:** WA Gambling Commission Public Hearing

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External Email

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To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to express my heartfelt feelings and to have my voice heard regarding what most people in the state of Washington already know. It is about the total bias and favoritism shown by certain Gaming Commissioners towards Tribal Casinos and the complete and utter unfairness towards local Cardrooms. How can these people look at themselves in the mirror?? The answer is, it's easy when your pockets are being lined with payoffs and the greed/wealth provide all the motivation for such decisions. Let's look at the facts...

Tribal Casinos are permitted to have slot machines, sports wagering, a full slate of table games, and only few limitations on betting limits and capacity  
Cardrooms are limited to select Table Games such as Blackjack, Pai Gow, Baccarat and can only have 15 tables maximum

Self-Exclusion and Responsible Gaming only apply to Cardrooms, not Tribal Casinos. Guests that Self-exclude from Cardrooms are still allowed to gamble at Tribal Casinos. How does that support the basis and nature of basic responsible gaming? Why aren't Tribal Casinos pushed to comply with this too?

The items above all point to one thing...the effort to dissolve local Cardrooms and give exclusivity to Tribal Gaming. Sadly, this agenda is only being carried out and supported by a few unethical commissioners, Anders Ibsen and Michael Charles.

In closing, the only thing people should want is a fair playing field, consistent application of regulations/policies, and complete transparency. Unfortunately, Cardrooms such as Maverick Gaming are not afforded that basic right and principle. The panel of Commissioners that hold people's fate in their hands should be comprised of 5 unbiased individuals that have no personal interest or gain tied to the decisions they make. The general public is speaking out in numbers and pleads for this to be resolved going forward.

Sincerely,  
An extremely disgusted citizen and taxpayer

**Cotton, Jeneva (GMB)**

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**From:** AgencyWebsite (GMB)  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 10, 2025 8:14 AM  
**To:** Griffin, Tina (GMB)  
**Cc:** Cotton, Jeneva (GMB); Gullion, Tricia (GMB); Moore, Shannon (GMB)  
**Subject:** FW: Gambling Commission

**From:** Helen Wu <helenwu73@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 9, 2025 5:27 PM  
**To:** AgencyWebsite (GMB) <agency.website@wsgc.wa.gov>  
**Subject:** Gambling Commission

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External Email

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Hello,

My name is Helen Wu I am an employee at Great American in Tukwila. I apologize for the late notice but I am unable to make it to the Gambling Commission tomorrow in Olympia at 9:30 am because I have work tomorrow.

I apologize for the inconveniences.

Thank you,  
Helen Wu

**Cotton, Jeneva (GMB)**

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**From:** AgencyWebsite (GMB)  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 10, 2025 8:15 AM  
**To:** Griffin, Tina (GMB)  
**Cc:** Gullion, Tricia (GMB); Cotton, Jeneva (GMB); Moore, Shannon (GMB)  
**Subject:** FW: Self-exclusion rules

**From:** Jacqueline Su <maiolympia@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 9, 2025 9:02 PM  
**To:** AgencyWebsite (GMB) <agency.website@wsgc.wa.gov>  
**Subject:** Self-exclusion rules

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External Email

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Dear Gambling Commission,

I am writing to ask you to review and change the rules on self-exclusion to allow the players to change their length of self-exclusion period.

Allowing the players to only play at tribal casinos during the self-exclusion period is not only unfair to Maverick and other non-tribal casinos but also hurt the workers and their livelihood who work there.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Tuan Nguyen  
Silver Dollar SeaTac

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone