



Kletsel Economic Development Authority Est. 2012

A Federally Chartered Corporation of the
Kletsel Dehe Wintun Nation

August 7, 2025

Chair Caballero and Committee Members
Senate Appropriations Committee
California State Capitol, Room 412
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Opposition to AB 831

Dear Chair Caballero and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Kletsel Economic Development Authority (KEDA), we respectfully oppose AB 831. This bill lacks unanimous support among California tribes, has advanced without meaningful consultation with many of us, and threatens our inherent right to create legitimate revenue streams to support our people.

For tribes like ours—far from high-traffic tourism corridors—geography has always limited traditional economic development. Large, well-established gaming tribes already benefit from these geographic advantages and decades of success. It is self-serving for them to advocate for policies that restrict emerging digital commerce opportunities for others, effectively holding smaller and less-advantaged tribes' hostage to their location.

Digital platforms offer one of the few viable ways for geographically isolated tribes to fund essential services: healthcare, education, housing, food security, and social programs. The need is urgent:

Nearly 1 in 3 residents in California tribal areas live below the poverty line, and over one-third of homes are overcrowded or substandard.

Native households face food insecurity rates up to 92 % in some communities, compared to about 14 % nationwide.

Eliminating lawful, regulated digital opportunities will deepen these disparities, reduce self-sufficiency, and undermine the State's commitment to economic justice for all tribes. We urge the Committee to reject AB 831 and work toward legislation that expands—not restricts—opportunity for every tribal nation.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Eric Wright'.

Eric Wright
Chief Executive Officer
Kletsel Economic Development Authority (KEDA)