EVERGREEN
council on problem gambling

September 16, 2026

NCPG Board Members
Attn: Derek Longmire, President, Board of Directors
National Council on Problem Gambling

Heather Maurer, Executive Director
National Council on Problem Gambling

NCPG Affiliate Representatives

RE: Withdrawal from the National Council on Problem Gambling

Dear NCPG Board Members, Executive Director Maurer, and Affiliate Representatives:

The Evergreen Council on Problem Gambling's (ECPG) relationship with the National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG) is deeply rooted in our history. ECPG was founded in 1991 as the Washington State Council on Problem Gambling by Charles Maurer, PhD, who had been a member of NCPG since 1979 and would later serve on its Board of Directors and as its President. Over the ensuing 35 years, that relationship has extended across generations of ECPG leadership. Our Board members, staff, and executive leadership have served NCPG in leadership and committee roles; ECPG has partnered with NCPG to bring national conferences to Seattle twice; and our members have regularly participated in NCPG conferences and looked to the national organization for leadership, collaboration, and a shared national voice in advancing our field.

Throughout those 35 years, our organizations have been united by a common purpose: helping individuals and families affected by problem gambling and gambling-related harm. We have shared commitments to increasing public awareness, expanding access to prevention, treatment, and recovery services, supporting research and education, maintaining neutrality regarding legalized gambling, and bringing diverse stakeholders together in service of that mission. For ECPG, our relationship with NCPG has therefore represented far more than organizational affiliation. It has been a longstanding partnership built upon shared history,

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professional relationships, mutual leadership, and, most importantly, a common commitment to the people and families we exist to serve.

It is precisely because of this history that we write this letter with profound disappointment and a heavy heart. Today, we find ourselves at a crossroads. ECPG has tried for months to obtain clarity on issues related to NCPG governance, financial and operational transparency, and administrative oversight. While NCPG's recent acceptance of funding from Kalshi without prior review and approval from the NCPG Board of Directors initially raised significant concerns regarding potential damage to the organizational credibility of NCPG and its affiliates, NCPG's responses to the concerns of its affiliates and other stakeholders have caused us to question whether NCPG continues to operate with the best interests of its affiliates and stakeholders in mind and if the respective missions of NCPG and ECPG remain in alignment. We have concluded they do not. **Consequently, after months of outreach, careful consideration of NCPG's responses and actions, and extensive deliberation, the ECPG Board of Directors has voted to withdraw ECPG's membership and affiliation with the National Council on Problem Gambling, effective September 17, 2026. This is not a decision we have reached hastily, nor one we ever anticipated having to make.**

To review how we arrived at this decision, on June 1, 2026, ECPG wrote to the NCPG Board of Directors expressing serious concerns regarding Kalshi's then-recently announced $2 million, two-year "investment" in NCPG. Our concerns extended beyond the amount of the investment itself to its potential implications for NCPG's independence and credibility, its commitment to consumer protection and harm reduction, and the longstanding relationships ECPG and other affiliates have developed with tribal nations, regulators, treatment providers, the recovery community, and other stakeholders. Our letter posed specific questions regarding the development, terms, authorization, oversight, and intended use of the Kalshi investment and requested a copy of the agreement. We asked for responses by June 18 and requested an opportunity to meet with NCPG leadership to discuss any remaining concerns.

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NCPG initially informed us that our concerns would be presented to its Board of Directors for further discussion and consideration. We subsequently received materials describing the Financial Trader Health & Safety Initiative and NCPG's rationale for engaging with prediction markets. While these materials provided useful context regarding the initiative, they did not answer the specific financial, contractual, governance, and oversight questions raised in our June 1 letter.

The NCPG Board discussed ECPG's concerns at its June 16 meeting. We were subsequently informed that the Kalshi agreement had been shared with the NCPG Board as part of that meeting but would not be shared publicly. Notably, ECPG Executive Director Maureen Greeley, who was serving as a member of the NCPG Board at the time, was not provided a copy of the agreement. On June 24, NCPG informed us that it considered our concerns to have been addressed through its public statements, Town Hall discussions, newsletters, social media, and other communications. Those communications explained NCPG's public-health rationale for engaging with prediction markets, but they did not provide direct answers to many of our questions regarding the Kalshi agreement, NCPG's obligations, or the governance and approval processes surrounding it.

This distinction was and remains fundamental to ECPG's concerns. We were not questioning whether prediction markets can produce gambling-related harms or whether NCPG should work to advance consumer protections in this emerging area. Rather, we were seeking transparency regarding how NCPG entered into a financial relationship of this magnitude with a highly controversial partner, what commitments accompanied the funding, how the agreement was authorized and overseen, and how its potential consequences for NCPG's independence, credibility, affiliates, and stakeholders had been evaluated. Despite our repeated efforts, we did not believe these questions had been adequately answered.

Because these concerns remained unresolved, ECPG continued to seek direct dialogue with NCPG leadership. In July, when we learned that NCPG representatives would be in Seattle for a presentation, we requested an in-person meeting to discuss our concerns and seek answers to the questions raised in our June 1 letter. That request was declined, and NCPG instead offered a video conference on August 7. Participating were Derek Longmeier, President of the NCPG Board of Directors; Heather Maurer, NCPG Executive Director; Eric Durban, ECPG Treasurer; Maureen Greeley, ECPG Executive Director; and Ty Lostutter, President of the ECPG Board of Directors.

Unfortunately, the meeting did not move us closer to greater understanding or alignment. Our concerns, as well as concerns raised by other affiliates and stakeholders, were largely dismissed. Although NCPG representatives acknowledged that "mistakes were made" and that "the [Kalshi] rollout could have been smoother," they expressed no substantive concerns regarding the underlying decision and indicated that it was "time to move on." No additional information regarding the terms of the Kalshi "investment," NCPG's obligations under the agreement, or the process by which the agreement was negotiated and approved was forthcoming.

The discussion also raised additional concerns regarding NCPG's internal governance. Prior to the Kalshi investment becoming public, we learned that members of the NCPG Board had been required to sign a nondisclosure agreement (NDA). We had initially assumed that this requirement originated with Kalshi and was intended to control the timing of the public announcement. During our August 7 discussion, however, NCPG Executive Director Heather Maurer explained that she had initiated the NDA because of concerns that members of the NCPG Board might disclose information about the agreement before Kalshi publicly announced it. She further explained that information regarding another matter had previously been disclosed prematurely and that, as a result, she believed an NDA was necessary to prevent premature disclosure of the Kalshi investment.

This explanation was deeply concerning to ECPG because it raised broader questions about the relationship between NCPG's executive leadership and its Board of Directors, the Board's role in organizational oversight and decision-making, and the governance processes surrounding a financial agreement of this magnitude. In particular, we were troubled by a process in which executive leadership and staff could negotiate or substantially advance a consequential financial agreement without meaningful involvement of the governing Board, and in which Board members were then required to execute an NDA before receiving information about the agreement. Our

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concern extends beyond the issue of confidentiality itself. Members of a nonprofit Board of Directors have fiduciary responsibilities for the governance and oversight of the organization, making their meaningful participation in consequential organizational decisions essential to effective governance.

Importantly, during our August 7 discussion, NCPG President Derek Longmeier acknowledged the need to examine this process and indicated that NCPG would review its policies, though it had been pointed out this was already covered in its bylaws, and consider changes to ensure that future investments, donations, or similarly significant financial arrangements appropriately involve the Board of Directors. We appreciate that acknowledgment and believe such a review is warranted. However, by the time of our August meeting, these concerns had been known for several months, and ECPG had not been informed that a formal review of the relevant governance processes or bylaws had yet occurred. At the time of this letter, we likewise have not received information indicating whether the NCPG Board has subsequently undertaken that review, reached any conclusions, or implemented changes to address these concerns.

While we recognize that organizational governance reforms require thoughtful consideration, the circumstances that made such a review necessary including the apparent blurring of executive and Board responsibilities and the Executive Director's stated concerns about entrusting sensitive organizational information to members of the governing Board further diminished ECPG's confidence in NCPG's current governance and accountability processes. The absence of clarity regarding whether these concerns have since been formally addressed by the Board has only reinforced those concerns.

ECPG recognizes the need for innovation in and believes effective advocacy for responsible gaming and/or problem gambling prevention, awareness, and treatment requires continued neutrality regarding *legal* gambling activities. However, NCPG's decision to align itself, and by extension its affiliates, with an entity that denies its activity constitutes gambling despite legal decisions to the contrary undermines the mission, credibility, and reputation of NCPG and

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its affiliates.[1] Further, because Kalshi disregards tribal sovereignty by offering unauthorized gambling activities within Indian Country (as that term is defined by federal law), NCPG's alliance with Kalshi is arguably an affront to the numerous tribal governments that have supported NCPG and its state affiliates for decades. In sum, NCPG's decision to partner with an entity that numerous states and tribes have sued and/or taken formal positions[2] against appears premature at best, if not ill-advised.

We believe nonprofit organizations should be deeply concerned with ethical debates around their donors because donor relationships impact public trust, legal compliance, and the integrity of the organization's mission. When NCPG was considering the partnership with Kalshi, NCPG's organization and its leadership should have considered any adverse effects it might have on its affiliates and state, tribal, and national stakeholders and sought their input. Our questions and concerns centered around whether NCPG has a clear ethical framework for gift acceptance and a solid understanding that the board has authority to review and approve donor-related decisions, especially those that may represent a misalignment with the organization's mission. From what NCPG has shared, it does not appear this was the case with the Kalshi agreement.

We acknowledge NCPG's leadership has repeatedly referenced the NCPG Board of Directors' decision to create a Financial Services and Trading membership category earlier this year. However, the Board's approval of a new membership *category* differs significantly from the decision to enter a strategic alliance with, and accept a significant financial contribution from, any entity, much less an agreement with an entity mired in extensive legal controversies regarding

[1] This issue is particularly acute for ECPG given Washington state's successful litigation efforts to enforce its gambling and consumer protection laws - Kalshi is now barred from offering wagers on sports, elections, politics, and culture topics in Washington state. On August 28th, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals issued an opinion affirming a U.S. District Court's decision to dissolve an injunction that prevented the State of Nevada from proceeding against Kalshi. In short, the Court of Appeals sided with the State of Nevada in its efforts to address alleged violations of state gambling laws. The Nevada Council on Problem Gambling, then still an affiliate of the National Council, participated in the proceeding by submitting amicus briefing in support of the State of Nevada.

[2] By recent count, at least twenty states have instituted some form of enforcement action and/or litigation against Kalshi, forty-four State Attorneys General have asserted sports betting is not an activity regulated by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC), and multiple Tribal entities have sued or signed onto litigation against Kalshi for violation the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA), tribal-state gaming compacts, and associated tribal gaming ordinances.

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whether it engages in illegal gambling. Decisions regarding strategic alliances and financial contributions go beyond mere membership in NCPG, and such decisions should be made by NCPG's Board of Directors after vetting the party in question, the nature of the strategic alliance, and the terms of the contribution. This position is supported by NCPG's bylaws and past precedent e.g., the decision to accept a multi-million dollar contribution from a professional sports league made by the NCPG Board of Directors in extensive consultation with the NCPG staff after months of negotiations to establish the purposes to which the funds could be put, and as formal motion approved on the record by the Board. This was not the case with the Kalshi agreement, and we challenge the existing Board members to determine why the bylaws and precedent were not followed in this instance.

There are myriad concerns over responsible gaming and consumer protection issues that we could revisit in detail regarding Kalshi and prediction markets in general and specifically in the midst of controversy over contracts involving military operations, as well as the lack of readily accessible responsible gaming and problem gambling information on Kalshi's websites, allowing Market Makers to participate in retail transactions, allowing minors to participate in gambling-related activities, use of student ambassadors on college campuses to recruit users, publicized cases of insider trading, and undermining the rule of law by disregarding court decisions. However, our experience over the past several months demonstrates such questions were raised by ECPG, other affiliates, and industry stakeholders at large, but they have been dismissed by NCPG.

Given the controversies surrounding Kalshi, the decision to enter a strategic alliance with, and accept a $2 million "investment" from, Kalshi without full Board review, discussion, and approval and without seeking input from affiliates and stakeholders was problematic. However, the subsequent actions of NCPG's leadership in response to concerns expressed by ECPG and other affiliates demonstrate a fundamental shift in NCPG's organizational philosophy and how it interacts with its affiliates. While we remain concerned over the NCPG-Kalshi agreement, the Kalshi issue appears emblematic of a larger, systemic issue emerging at NCPG. After considerable reflection, we have concluded that our organizations are no longer sufficiently aligned for ECPG

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to continue its affiliation with NCPG. We reach this conclusion with profound disappointment. After 35 years as an actively engaged, supportive, dues-paying affiliate member, we reluctantly notify you of the Evergreen Council on Problem Gambling's withdrawal from the National Council on Problem Gambling and cancellation of the individual NCPG memberships of our Board of Directors effective September 17, 2026. Ending that relationship is painful, but our responsibility must ultimately be to the mission, values, and communities we were established to serve.

Despite the differences that have brought us to this decision, we remain grateful for the many years of partnership, collaboration, and friendships that have connected our organizations and our members. We recognize and respect the important work that NCPG and its many dedicated staff, Board members, affiliates, and supporters have contributed to this field. Although our organizations will now follow separate paths, we sincerely wish NCPG and its members well and hope that we will continue to find common ground in the work that has always mattered most: helping individuals and families affected by problem gambling and gambling-related harm.

Sincerely,

Ty Lostutter, Ph.D.

Ty W. Lostutter, Ph.D.
ECPG Board President
On behalf of, and in collaboration with, the full ECPG Board of Directors.