



**Subject: CEMA Response to California DOJ Request for Opinion**

Dear California Amusement Industry Stakeholders,

We'd like to update you on the current status of our industry's interactions with the California Department of Justice (DOJ) regarding claw machine operations in the state.

In late 2024, a new claw machine operator applied for a business license in the City of Monterey Park. In response, the city council asked their city attorney to request clarification from the California DOJ regarding its 2010 advisory on claw machine operations. This inquiry triggered the Attorney General's Office to begin soliciting broader opinions on the legality and regulation of claw machines in California.

CEMA's legal counsel was promptly notified, and we immediately began taking steps to safeguard our industry. With the support of our legislative lobbyist and attorney, CEMA Board members coordinated an in-person meeting and live demonstration with a DOJ representative on April 17, 2025. Our delegation represented operators and distributors from across the state.

To support our position, CEMA retained Eclipse Compliance Testing to conduct the demonstration and explain the capabilities of modern, skill-based claw machines. Our goal was to demonstrate that today's claw machines can be and are configured for skill-based operation, in compliance with California law.

We also emphasized that when amusement machines are sourced from reputable, law-abiding distributors—such as Betson, who was present at the meeting—they are sold and operated in accordance with California regulations.

Following this meeting, CEMA's legal counsel submitted a formal written opinion to the DOJ. At this time, we are awaiting a response, and no official timeline has been provided.

In the meantime, CEMA is focused on educating industry stakeholders and building broad-based support. We've distributed a letter of support along with a signature collection form and will continue promoting this initiative through social media and industry networks.

While we cannot predict the DOJ's final position, we believe strong industry support—including membership in CEMA and participation in our letter campaign—will significantly bolster our cause. Additionally, we welcome any stakeholders' legal teams to join in and submit their opinions to the DOJ.

We urge all stakeholders to continue operating in full compliance with current laws and best practices. We will keep you updated with any developments as they become available.



Sincerely,  
**The CEMA Board of Directors**