



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

RESOLUTION #MSH-01-014

Title: Fairness in Gaming Compact Negotiations

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WHEREAS, we, the members of the National Congress of American Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian nations, rights secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

WHEREAS, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) was established in 1944 and is the oldest, largest, and most representative national American Indian and Alaska Native tribal government organization; and

WHEREAS, since gaining federal recognition in August of 1999, the Match-e-be-nash-she-wish Band of Pottawatomis Indians of Michigan (Gun Lake Tribe) has sought to acquire a compact with the State of Michigan for the development and operation of a Class III gaming facility as a way to create a sustainable economic base upon which the Tribe can further develop its governmental operations, programs and services for the benefit of its members and the community at large in Southwest Michigan; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Michigan has entered into and approved Class III gaming compacts with the other eleven federally recognized tribes in the State of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Michigan now refuses to enter into negotiations with the Gun Lake Tribe for an identical Class III gaming compact, thereby reversing his as well as the State's long standing policy of fair and equal dealings with all federally recognized Indian tribes in the State of Michigan.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby support to call upon the Governor of the State of Michigan to cease its imposition of a double standard regarding the fair and equal treatment of the federally recognized Tribes in the State of Michigan, whereby the Gun Lake Tribe is treated differently and to a lesser degree of fairness than the treatment offered to the other federally recognized Michigan Tribes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NCAI calls upon the Governor of the State of Michigan to immediately begin full faith negotiations with the Gun Lake Tribe for a Class III gaming compact as required under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA).

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that NCAI does hereby support this resolution and urges the State of Michigan, along with the other federally recognized Michigan Tribes, to support the efforts of the Gun Lake Tribe in seeking a Class III gaming compact on the principals of fundamental fairness and equal protection.

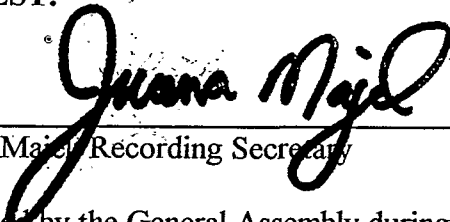
CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2001 Mid-Year Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at Foxwoods Resort Casino in Mashantucket, Connecticut on May 13-16, 2001, with a quorum present.



Susan Masten, President

ATTEST:



Juana Maje, Recording Secretary

Adopted by the General Assembly during the 2001 Mid-Year Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held in Mashantucket, Connecticut on May 13-16, 2001.