



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

April 5, 2018

The Honorable Ryan Zinke, Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

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Re: Publication of Amendments to Gaming Compacts

Dear Secretary Zinke:

On behalf of the National Congress of American Indians, I write to respectfully request that you publish in the Federal Register notice of the amendments to the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation's and Mohegan Tribe's Gaming Compacts. These amendments are very important to economic development for both tribal governments as well as the State of Connecticut, and publication of amended compacts is within your duties under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act. We urge you to act with dispatch.

Under federal law, the Secretary's publication of gaming compacts is not discretionary. The Secretary may disapprove a compact only if it violates federal law or the trust obligations of the United States. If the Secretary does not approve or disapprove a compact within 45 days, the compact shall be considered to have been approved. At that time, the Secretary is required by law to act: "shall publish in the Federal Register notice of any Tribal-State compact that is approved, or considered to have been approved." 25 U.S.C. 2710(d)(8).

Very respectfully, we urge you to fulfill this responsibility under IGRA and publish notice in the Federal Register immediately. We greatly appreciate all of your efforts to advance tribal self-determination. If you or your staff has any questions, please contact NCAI Executive Director Jacqueline Pata, jpata@ncai.org, or John Dossett, NCAI General Counsel, at jdossett@ncai.org.

Sincerely,

Jefferson Keel