

BAD RIVER BAND OF LAKE SUPERIOR TRIBE OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS

CHIEF BLACKBIRD CENTER

P.O. Box 39 • Odanah, Wisconsin 54861

January 12, 2017

Governor Scott Walker
State of Wisconsin
115 East Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Re: Support of Stockbridge's Position on Compact Compliance

Dear Governor Walker,

The Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa fully supports the position of the Stockbridge Munsee Community as detailed in the attached October 12, 2016 letter to you.


Both Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA) and the State – Tribal Compacts executed under IGRA embody the carefully crafted balance between the public policy interests of the State and tribal sovereignty as strengthened through economic development. The State Government, Federal Government and Tribal Government are all tasked with regulatory powers to ensure gaming is operated within the parameters established under IGRA and the State-Tribal Compacts. This shared duty and careful compromise has led to unprecedented economic development in Indian Country as a whole and in Wisconsin specifically. The Tribes in Wisconsin have taken great strides toward self-sufficiency and have become the economic drivers of their respective regional economies.

However, all of this progress is threatened when any of the regulatory powers fail to enforce the law. The operation of the Wittenberg Ancillary Facility along with its proposed expansion is a perfect example of regulatory failure.

We respectfully request that the State of Wisconsin reconsider its preliminary interpretation of existing compact language as well as aggressively demand action on the land eligibility issue from the National Indian Gaming Commission. The consequences for continued inaction I am concerned will be far-reaching and detrimental to the relationship the State has carefully built with Wisconsin's sovereign tribes.

Governor Scott Walker
January 12, 2017
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Sincerely,


for Robert Blanchard
Chairman

cc: Attorney General Brad Schimel
Department of Administration Secretary Scott Neitzel
Sen. Robert Cowles
Sen. Janet Bewley