



Press Release from the Washington State Gambling Commission
February 13, 2015

State Gambling Commission votes to forward Tribal-State Compact Amendments to Governor Inslee

Today, at their public meeting, the five Gambling Commissioners and four legislative ex officio members voted 8:1 to forward Tribal-State Compact amendments to the Governor. Commission Chair Chris Stearns said "These 27 Compact amendments are an important milestone for the people of Washington State and the Indian Tribes. The Commission is proud to have worked on a government to government basis with the Tribes, as well as with the Governor's office."

At the meeting, Leonard Forsman, Suquamish Tribal Chairman, and T. J. Greene, Sr., Makah Tribal Chairman, testified in support of the amendments. Maureen Greeley, Executive Director of the Evergreen Council on Problem Gambling testified she was neutral.

Leonard Forsman, Suquamish Tribal Chairman, stated "This is a historical agreement between the state and Tribes that builds on previous agreements and the Centennial Accord of 1989. This is an example of economic development in Indian Country which mutually benefits both Tribes and the state."

T.J. Greene, Sr., Makah Tribal Chairman, stated "We're very pleased at the foresight and wisdom of the state and Tribes in developing a system in which Tribes such as ourselves can actually benefit from gaming even though we don't have a gaming facility."

If the Governor approves the amendments, each Tribe will then send the amendment to the Secretary of the United States Department of Interior for consideration, signature, and publication in the Federal Register. The amendments will not become effective until published in the Federal Register.

The State of Washington and 27 of the 29 federally recognized Indian Tribes in Washington reached the tentative agreement to amend their Tribal-State Gaming Compacts in December 2014. Compacts are authorized under the federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act.

Below is a summary of the proposed amendment:

- **Player Terminal Allocations** - Each Tribe's allocation of player terminals (gaming machines) is increased from 975 to 1,075, adding up to 2,700 machines statewide. The proposed amendment does not change the maximum number of machines allowed at a facility. In addition to the allocation increase, each Tribe may increase its allocation by 50 player terminals, but only if the following conditions are met:
 - A Tribe provides the Gambling Commission with written notice that there are 500 or fewer player terminals available for lease among all Tribes participating in the Tribal Lottery System, along with a certification from an independent accounting firm confirming the number of machines available.

- Within 30 days, the Gambling Commission reviews the certification and independently verifies the player terminals available for lease in the state. Any allocation change would be effective 30 days after notification by the Gambling Commission to the Tribe.
 - Another increase cannot take place until another year has passed and only if the conditions above are met again.
 - Tribes are limited to one 50 player terminal increase per twelve month period. However, if any Washington Tribe will operate more than 1,075 player terminals upon opening a new gaming facility, a Tribe can notify the Gambling Commission, and with Gambling Commission concurrence, receive an additional 50 player terminal increase within the twelve month period.
 - If one Tribe receives an increase under this section, all other compacted Washington Tribes will receive the same increase.
- **Problem Gambling Smoking Cessation Contributions** - Each Tribe's annual contributions towards problem gambling and smoking cessation services established in Appendix X2 shall be paid within one year of the close of the Tribe's fiscal year. This timeframe will match other required contribution timeframes.
 - **Annual Regulatory Fees** - The amendment eliminates the 10% pre-payment discount, credit, and alternative regulatory fee agreement options. Instead, regulatory fees for each Tribe's gaming activities will be determined according to the Gambling Commission's current cost allocation model.
 - **Restriction on Electronic Benefits Cards** - Each Tribe must ensure all cash dispensing outlets and point of sale machines within its gaming facilities do not accept electronic benefits cards.

Here are the names of the 27 Tribes:

Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation	Samish Indian Nation
Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation	Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe
Cowlitz Indian Tribe	Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe
Hoh Indian Tribe	Skokomish Indian Tribe
Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe	Snoqualmie Indian Tribe
Kalispel Tribe of Indians	Spokane Tribe
Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe	Squaxin Island Tribe
Lummi Nation	Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians
Makah Indian Tribe	Suquamish Tribe
Nisqually Indian Tribe	Swinomish Indian Tribal Community
Nooksack Indian Tribe	Tulalip Tribes of Washington
Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe	Upper Skagit Indian Tribe
Quileute Tribe	Yakama Nation
Quinault Indian Nation	

For questions, contact staff at the Washington State Gambling Commission:

Dave Trujillo, Director	Amy Hunter, Deputy Director
Phone: (360) 486-3512	Phone: (360) 486-3463
E-mail: Dave.trujillo@wsgc.wa.gov	E-mail: Amy.hunter@wsgc.wa.gov