

Spokane Tribe – Washington State Gaming Compact



February 16, 2007

Gov. Gregoire Signs Spokane Tribal Gaming Compact

Compact continues to limit gambling in Washington

Governor Gregoire has signed a compact for gaming on tribal lands, consistent with tribal, state and federal laws. The compact will be sent to Secretary of the United States Department of Interior for consideration, signature and publication.

The compact with the Spokane Tribe becomes the 28th gaming compact with Tribes in Washington. All others compacts, with the exception of the Colville Tribe, authorize each Tribe to operate 3,000 Tribal lottery machines. The Colville Compact authorizes 4,800 machines. This compact authorizes 1,500 machines for the first three years and 3,000 machines thereafter until further negotiations.

A tentative compact was reached in 2006, which would have allowed the Spokane Tribe to operate 7,500 tribal lottery machines. Governor Gregoire rejected this compact and sent negotiators back to the table.

“As I have made very clear, I don't like gambling. Under federal law, I am required to negotiate in good faith with the Tribes,” said Governor Gregoire. “I am committed to honor the obligations made by the state in prior compacts and comply with federal law. This negotiation was approached in good faith by both the state and the Spokane Tribe.”

This compact allows the Tribe to operate five casinos, as long as the casinos are at least 25 miles apart, which is the same number and requirements for the Colville Compact. All other Tribes are limited to two casinos.

Highlights of the Agreement

- The Tribe commits financial support to problem gambling and smoking cessation programs
- Resolves years of negotiations and litigation between the Tribe, State and Federal Government
- Strengthens the regulation of gambling in Washington
- Maintains the structure of Tribal-State Gaming Compacts in Washington
- Continues the approach of limiting gambling operations

- Acknowledges and continues the Tribe's contributions and investments to the community, which benefit both Tribal and non-tribal members
- Continues to provide a mechanism for the sharing of gaming revenue with other Tribes

Problem Gambling Contribution

The Spokane Tribe is the first Tribe to contribute 0.13 percent of its net win (gross receipts minus prizes paid) to problem gambling support services. This is the same percent other non-tribal gambling businesses contribute to problem gambling support services. The Tribe will make payments to the Department of Social and Health Services, Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse, and will receive credit for any payments made to other organizations directly related to helping reduce problem gambling.

Smoking Cessation Contribution

In addition to its problem gambling contribution, the Spokane Tribe is the first Tribe to set aside 0.13 percent of its net win for contributions dedicated to smoking cessation programs. Contributions fund anti-smoking advertisements or nonprofit organizations with the primary purpose of discouraging tobacco use. However, if the Tribe operates all of its gaming facilities as smoke-free facilities, it will not need to make the smoking cessation contribution.

Community Investments and Contributions Benefit Tribal and Non-Tribal Members

The compact requires the Tribe to contribute 3% of machine revenues toward the health and welfare of the community by providing for programs that benefit everyone, such as law enforcement and governmental services, health care, job training, and public works. The Tribe may distribute Community Investments and Contributions directly to local jurisdictions or qualifying programs, and it will provide a report to the state of its distributions each year. These community investments may reach several million dollars on an annual basis.

Regulation of Gaming Activities

The compact brings all Spokane gaming operations under the regulations of the state Gambling Commission, consistent with all other Tribal compacts.

For Questions

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