



MichGO statements incorrect, Granholm says

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Some statements made to the media by members of anti-casino political action group, MichGO, are incorrect, said Governor Jennifer Granholm. Granholm recently issued a press release, responding to MichGO comments.

"A number of news stories on recent developments in the Gun Lake (casino) litigation have contained a statement from MichGO, to the effect that, if the state were to enter into a gaming compact with the Gun Lake Tribe, it would jeopardize deals with other Indian casinos, because those deals gave tribes exclusive rights to gaming operations," Granholm said.

Seven original tribal gaming agreements in 1993 provided for payments to the state, based on the tribes having exclusive rights to casino gaming.

"Because of this requirement, the payment obligation of these seven tribes was effectively ended by both the voter approval of the Detroit casinos, and the approval of four additional tribal compacts in 1988," Granholm said. Subsequent compacts have addressed the problem differently by promising a more limited form of exclusivity.

Under the 1998 compacts, exclusive payments to the state are not affected by the Detroit casinos or by a tribal casino that is operated by a federally acknowledged tribe, operating under a state compact, Granholm said. A new non-tribal casino would terminate tribal payments to the state, but a compact with Gun Lake (casino) would not affect tribal payments the state is currently entitled to receive.

Gun Lake Tribal Spokesman James Nye agreed that some MichGO statements to the media have been inaccurate.

Recently, MichGO has inaccurately claimed that the Pokagon Band of Pottawatomi Indians, who are building a casino in New Buffalo, were forced to do an EIS (Environmental Impact Statement), Nye said.

"Please be aware that MichGO has resorted to purposely using false and inaccurate statements about the Gun Lake Casino, and the process to secure a tribal-state gaming compact," he said.

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