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Gun Lake Tribe optimistic about casino's future

(January 28, 2006, 6:40 p.m.) An Allegan County Indian tribe is grinning from ear to ear Saturday following a decision in favor of another West Michigan tribe.

Friday, the federal government put land in Berrien County into trust for the Pokagon band of Potawatomi Indians. The tribe has been trying for years to build the Four Winds Casino Resort in New Buffalo.

However, the move had been hampered by lawsuits by anti-casino groups. The news was also good for the Gun Lake band of Potawatomi Indians which is fighting lawsuits as well over a proposed casino in Allegan County's Wayland Township.

"That pretty much clears the road in terms of our lawsuit, we just have to go through the motions and make our arguments and we feel that this will get it done more expeditiously", says John Shagonaby, of the Gun Lake Tribe.

Todd Boorsma, President of Michigan Gambling Opposition, or MichGo tells 24 Hour News 8, "It's very difficult to stop a casino once there is a compact. That's why we are thankful there is no compact with the Gun Lake tribe and the Michigan Senate has asked the governor not to negotiate".

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