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Gun Lake Tribe wins

Updated: Feb 24, 2007 04:43 PM EST

BRADLEY -- U.S. District Court Judge John Garrett Penn has dismissed the Michigan Gambling Organization's lawsuit against the federal government. The Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians, Gun Lake Tribe has been approved to build a casino in Allegan County.

The lawsuit challenged the U.S. Department of Interior's decision to take the land into trust for the Tribe, which would allow the construction to begin on the casino.

"This decision is a cause for great celebration, both for the Tribe and the people of West Michigan who dream of economic opportunities and good paying jobs with great benefits," said D.K. Sprague, Tribal Chairman.

Michigan Gambling Organization has stated that they will file an appeal to the decision.

"Yesterday's ruling is obviously disappointing, but we have known since day one that our legal challenge is an uphill battle." said MichGO's president, Todd Boorsma. "However, we will continue to pursue every possible legal and legislative avenue to uphold our state's right to stop this unwanted casino."

The facility could now open as early as the summer of 2008.

