

Memorandum

To: All MIGA Tribes, Congressional Delegation
From: John McCarthy, Executive Director
CC: All
Date: June 23, 2008
Re: **Off Reservation Gaming Bill**

In response to requests from the Minnesota Congressional Delegation, I have submitted the attached Resolution (MIGA Resolution 1-01) regarding our position on H.R. 2176 and H.R. 4115, land settlement bills that are scheduled for House action sometime this week.

The Minnesota Indian Gaming Association (MIGA) an association of 9 Federally Recognized Tribal governments is opposed to H.R. 2176 and H.R. 4115. These bills, if passed, will open the floodgates to unlimited “off reservation gambling”, which we have consistently opposed since 1989.

MIGA has opposed several attempts to expand “off reservation’ gaming within the state of Minnesota and within the Mid-West Region, most notably, the Hudson Dog Track proposal. It is our belief that proposals to authorize off-reservation gaming undermines the intent and purpose of IGRA, and erodes the vast support that Indian Gaming now maintains across the country. This legislation would for the first time in history set the precedent for the U.S. Congress to authorize a compact, circumventing the role of the Secretary of Interior and the state government. Every tribal-State Compact has been submitted to the Secretary of interior as well as the appropriate state governments, for approval.

These proposed Casinos are located over 350 miles from the Tribes existing land base and the Tribes involved have no ancestral ties to the proposed new sites.

While these bills are purported to involve “land claims”, those same claims have already been rejected by state courts and denied review by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Although the member Tribes of the Minnesota Indian Gaming Association have worked together with other Tribes trying to maintain a fair and reasonable Federal Indian policy, we cannot support H.R. 2176 or H.R. 4115 as if passed these pieces of legislation would set a very unhealthy precedent for Federal Indian fee-to-trust acquisition policy and would unnaturally expand “off-reservation” gambling and promote an inconsistent Congressional policy.

We urge Legislators to vote **no** on these bills and any amendment associated with them.