



Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe

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Malone Telegram

Dear Editors,

This letter is in response to the editorial published January 8, in the *Malone Telegram*.

We at the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe cannot begin to express our disappointment in the opinion expressed by the editors at the *Telegram*.

To call the Tribe greedy for desiring to and attempting to bring greater prosperity to our Native community, which would create thousands of jobs to an area in great need, and have beneficial repercussive effects for Akwesasne community members is unconscionable. Would the *Telegram* also call Gov. Eliot Spitzer, Congressional leaders Maurice Hinchey, Charles Schumer, Aileen Gunther, Charlie Rangel and Sullivan County officials and residents greedy as well for desiring the same?

It's easy to criticize an effort without offering viable alternative solutions.

We respect your position on casinos and share your concern for the environment, but to say that Kempthorne saved Sullivan County from a commercial monstrosity—when there is not just little commercial development and lack of job opportunities in Sullivan County, but a tremendous gaping black economic abyss existing there—shows how removed the editors are from the very real, dire situation in the Catskills.

In the North Country, industry is either closing doors or steadily making cutbacks and jobs are lost, causing economic heart failure—meanwhile the Tribe and its gaming entities are responsible for employing nearly 1200 people, approximately half of whom are non Native. In 2006, the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe paid \$16.9 million in wages to off-reservation employees alone. In addition, it provided a generous health care package to employees, *and* their families. It is safe to say that the wages paid out in 2007 have risen.

The Malone Telegram reported only last week that Franklin County and the towns of Bombay and Fort Covington are about to receive their annual share of gaming revenues from the state in the form of \$1.15 million dollars—all of which comes from the greedy St. Regis Mohawks.

The Telegram might make note of the vote of confidence received by the area paper, the *Times Record Herald*, which declared the casino ruling both wrong and insulting. We couldn't agree more with that on-the-ground assessment.

Sincerely,

St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Council

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