



Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe

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Interior Reasoning Wrong for Mohawks

The NY Times' January 17 assessment "Good Decision on Tribal Casinos" misses the point.

Interior Secretary Kempthorne's denial on our application is problematic since his new "commutability" guideline bypassed federal adoption as per the Administrative Procedures Act. Further, we Mohawks have commuted to Manhattan for generations, where our ironworkers have raised the NY skyline, built the Twin Towers, and cleaned up the rubble at Ground Zero.

Make no mistake, the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act requires that gaming revenues go to essential governmental services. At Akwesasne, found in the most remote part of the state, neighboring the two poorest and least populated counties, there is a laundry list of outstanding needs.

For us, money is not the goal. It is a tool to help meet the essential needs of our 12,000 members. A chance to provide for one's own is the American Dream—should Indians be denied that?

Sincerely,

St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Council

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