



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
EXECUTIVE OFFICE
LANSING

BRIAN CALLEY
LT. GOVERNOR

February 7, 2012

Chairman Joseph Eitrem
Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians
523 Ashmun Street
Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan 49783

Dear Chairman Eitrem:

Several media reports indicate that the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians (Tribe) and the City of Lansing have entered into agreements for the construction and operation of a tribal casino in downtown Lansing. This is to inform you that the State of Michigan believes the proposed casino would be inconsistent with state and federal law and the Tribe's gaming compact with the State. Further, the proposed casino would potentially conflict with the gaming compacts signed by the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi Indians and Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians. Accordingly, the State opposes the opening of this casino.

We understand the Tribe intends to purchase property in Lansing with funds derived from the Michigan Indian Land Claims Settlement Act. We further understand the Tribe believes that such land must be taken into trust by the federal government and will be otherwise exempt from provisions of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, and other federal laws designed to limit casino gaming to specific tribal lands. We are not aware of any legal authority supporting such a theory.

For these reasons, we respectfully advise you that the State will take whatever steps are necessary to prevent the opening of the proposed casino, and if the Tribe persists in these efforts, it does so at its own risk.

Of course, both our offices remain available to consult on this matter with representatives of the Tribe. Please contact Dave Murley in the Office of the Governor's Legal Counsel at 517-241-5630 if you would like to begin this discussion.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Rick Snyder
Governor

Bill Schuette
Attorney General