



SCHAGHTICOKE TRIBAL NATION CONNECTICUT

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**SCHAGHTICOKE TRIBAL NATION SAYS IT IS “READY TO MOVE FORWARD” IN
BUILDING A COMMERCIAL CASINO IN CONNECTICUT;
*Says Sec of the State’s Office hasn’t rescinded its application “for a good reason”***

Kent, CT – One week after it registered as a business entity for the purpose of building a commercial casino in Connecticut, the Schaghticoke Tribal Nation today said it is “ready to move forward and compete for the chance to build a commercial casino.”

Connecticut Special Act 15-7 creates a special development corporation—a “tribal business entity”—with the authority to plan and develop a commercial casino within the state’s borders. And section 1(f) of the Act states that there may be only one tribal business entity.

The tribe was notified last Tuesday (2/2/16) by the Connecticut Secretary of the State’s Office that its registration for a tribal business entity had been accepted. The next day, the Secretary of the State’s office said it had accepted the Schaghticoke’s registration in error because the tribe hadn’t made clear its casino-development purpose. But, according to Schaghticoke Tribal Nation Chief Richard Velky, “Our application clearly stated that our intent in registering a business entity was to be granted permission to build a commercial casino in Connecticut pursuant to Special Act 15-7.” And the Chief noted that the Secretary of the State’s Office has not rescinded the registration, “and for a good reason.”

Chief Velky added: “7 days ago we were told ‘yes’ by the State. 6 days ago we were told ‘no’ by the State through their press statement. “Yet here we are, a week later, and approval for our application hasn’t been rescinded. I can only assume that means the Secretary of the State’s office understands that it is wandering into dangerous legal territory if in fact it tries to rescind a perfectly valid, legal application that it initially approved.”

“We abided by the law, filed a complete, detailed application to develop a commercial casino in Connecticut, and our application for a business entity under Special Act 15-7 was approved,” said Chief Velky. “We are ready to move forward.”



Chief Velky described this as a “unique opportunity to create jobs for Connecticut residents and bring the state some much needed revenue.”

“This is a tremendous opportunity to create jobs for Connecticut residents, and to produce a new, significant revenue stream for the State of Connecticut,” said Chief Velky. “We happen to think western Connecticut might best serve those two purposes, but in the end we believe a fair, open, transparent, and competitive process should be undertaken to make that determination.”

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