



SCHAGHTICOKE TRIBAL NATION CONNECTICUT

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Schaghticoke Tribal Nation Complies with Secretary of State's Legal Process Tribe Cites "Equal Protection" Under Federal & State Law's

Kent, Connecticut – Today the Chief of the Schaghticoke Tribal Nation, Richard L. Velky, stands behind the creation of Confluence of Rivers Tribal Business Entity LLC pursuant to Special Act 15 - 7 in compliance with State of Connecticut administrative process under Secretary of the State regulations for granting and authorizing business entities on behalf of the state. Chief Velky stated, that "to deny or rescind our registration as a "Tribal Business Entity" would clearly be a violation of "due process and equal protection" under both United States Federal and State of Connecticut Laws."

Connecticut Special Act 15-7, enacted in 2015, creates a new corporate form known as a "tribal business entity." and endows tribal business entities with special rights and privileges that ordinary corporations do not have. As its name makes abundantly clear, the Confluence of Rivers Tribal Business Entity that the Schaghticoke Tribal Nation registered on January 29 was intended to be the special entity type created by Special Act 15-7.

Secretary of the State Denise Merrill nevertheless said Wednesday that the Schaghticoke Tribal Nation "did not fla[g] the special nature of its application to register a tribal business entity under Special Act 15-7."

Not So! Chief Velky has clearly stated: "Secretary Merrill's statement runs counter to the Business Description included in "Box 2" of the Articles of Organization, application filed by the Schaghticoke Tribal Nation which reads as follows: "The Schaghticoke Tribal Nation ("STN") is recognized by the State of Connecticut, but has no affiliation with the Mashantucket Pequot or Mohegan Tribes. STN seeks, through this new LLC, to develop a casino in Connecticut pursuant to Special Act 15-7, a copy of which is attached to this document."



Chief Velky stated that the Secretary of the State's Office notified the Confluence of Rivers Tribal Business Entity LLC, which was created by the Schaghticoke Tribal Nation, that they could "pursue the development of a commercial casino in Connecticut pursuant to Special Act 15-7." Secretary Merrill has since backtracked. Merrill said, "that the Tribe's application to form a limited liability company is permitted, but without federal recognition, the Schaghticoke cannot pursue development of a casino on their reservation." Merrill's statement is factually wrong. Velky stated, "Schaghticoke's never specified any location, including Kent, for a proposed commercial casino, and Special Act 15 - 7 allows for the creation of a commercial casino off reservation land."

Velky further said, "The obvious result of denying or rescinding our registration as a "Tribal Business Entity" would be to prevent us from issuing a request for proposals to municipalities regarding the establishment of a possible casino gaming facility in a willing host community. We view this as an unconstitutional act on the part of the Secretary of the State's Office. Furthermore, this threatened act by Secretary Merrill appears to be an unfortunate continuation of a long standing policy of certain officials of the State of Connecticut to frustrate our legal economic development initiatives."

