



SCHAGHTICOKE TRIBAL NATION CONNECTICUT

IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday March 4, 2016

Contact: Chief Richard Velky
Email: chiefvelkystn@aol.com

"Connecticut Casino Bill Unconstitutional" -- Schaghticoke Tribal Nation Says it will Sue the State of Connecticut

Kent, Connecticut – Today the Chief of the Schaghticoke Tribal Nation (“STN”), Richard L. Velky, announced his intention to bring a lawsuit against the State of Connecticut to declare Connecticut’s Special Act 15-7 unconstitutional because, among other things, it violates the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution and Article First § 20 of the Connecticut Constitution. Connecticut Special Act 15-7 grants the right to pursue Connecticut’s first ever commercial casino, on non-Indian property, exclusively to two Native American tribes – the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation and the Mohegan Tribe of Indians.

Chief Velky explained: “Without any competitive bidding or gaming study, Connecticut shut out STN and awarded to one pair of Native American tribes the exclusive ability to develop a highly-valuable commercial enterprise. Under the Equal Protection clauses of both the federal and state Constitutions, STN should have the same right to pursue this economic opportunity as anyone else.”

“The State has a long history of discriminating against the Schaghticoke,” Chief Velky said. “Recently, the State fought our federal recognition - one Connecticut Member of Congress even submitted legislation to terminate us -- supposedly because they didn't want another casino in Connecticut. Now Connecticut wants to open a new commercial casino, but only if STN doesn't get an opportunity to submit a proposal to operate it. The Schaghticoke Tribal Nation seeks equal treatment under the law and that does not exist under Connecticut Special Act 15-7.”

Chief Velky said the suit will be filed on Monday March 7, and that it will be explained in detail at a press conference at 1:00 PM in front of the Abraham A. Ribicoff Federal Building and Courthouse, located at 450 Main Street in Hartford, CT.

***** END *****

