



NYSAC

NEW YORK STATE
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

**2016 NYSAC Fall Seminar
Niagara County, New York**

**Standing Committee on Native American Affairs
and Gaming**

**Hon. D. Billy Jones (Franklin County) – Chair
Hon. John Becker (Madison County) – Vice Chair**

**2016 NYSAC Fall Seminar
Standing Committee on Native American Affairs and Gaming
Resolution #1**

**Resolution Supporting Revenues Dedicated to Reducing State Mandates on
Counties through the Legalization of Commercial Casino Gaming
Operations in New York**

WHEREAS, in November 2013, New York State voters approved a constitutional amendment to allow commercial casino gaming in the state, within specific guidelines; and

WHEREAS, the state will distribute 80% of the net gaming revenues retained by the state for state education aid above the state education formula; and

WHEREAS, under the Upstate New York Gaming and Economic Development Act, the host municipalities and surrounding counties split 20% of net gaming revenues; and

WHEREAS, local municipalities and local residents have already seen a fiscal benefit as a percentage of the gaming license fee was shared with local governments, and

WHEREAS, the Division of the Budget projects the Upstate New York Gaming and Economic Development Act will produce \$238 million annually in additional aid for education or property tax relief across the entire State, plus an additional \$192 million in annual local government aid; and

WHEREAS, casino expansion will increase local service costs in multiple areas such as local infrastructure and highway needs as well as law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, current levels of funding municipalities will receive under the Upstate New York Gaming and Economic Development Act may not be sufficient to offset increased costs associated with gaming, such as increased infrastructure, public safety, and public works needs; and

WHEREAS, counties restricted in raising revenue to fund those mandated programs and services may be forced to cut local programs, eliminate staff positions and reduce local services in order to pay for those mandated programs and services; and

WHEREAS, commercial gaming funds will provide the State with revenue that the State can use to fund its own programs and services delivered at the county level.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) calls on Governor Cuomo and members of the State Legislature to ensure the portion of the Commercial Gaming Revenue Fund paid to local municipalities and counties is at least sufficient to adequately cover and pay for all increased costs and services that local governments will incur by reason of commercial gaming operations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to the sixty-two counties of New York State encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the New York State Association of Counties shall forward copies of this resolution to Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, the New York State Legislature and all others deemed necessary and proper.