

1 **NYSAC 2023 Legislative Conference**  
2 **Standing Committee on Native American Affairs and Gaming**  
3 **Resolution #1**

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5 **Resolution Calling on the State of New York to Make All Municipalities**  
6 **Whole in the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Gaming Region that Have Been**  
7 **Impacted by the State’s Lack of Payment**  
8

9 **WHEREAS**, On October 15, 1993, the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe and the State of New  
10 York signed a compact paving the way for casino gaming; the Akwesasne Mohawk  
11 Casino opened on April 12, 1999; and  
12

13 **WHEREAS**, under agreement and codification in New York law, the St. Regis Mohawk  
14 Tribe pays 25 percent of all gaming revenue to the State of New York in return for, in  
15 part, exclusivity in regional gaming rights; and  
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17 **WHEREAS**, under the agreement, the State of New York shares with local  
18 governments, including counties and numerous towns in Northern New York, a portion  
19 of revenue they receive from the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe; and  
20

21 **WHEREAS**, the counties and local governments rely on that revenue to maintain  
22 infrastructure and provide public safety for all residents, as well as provide services  
23 needed to help support this growing gaming industry; and  
24

25 **WHEREAS**, in March 2020, the State of New York, under a State of Emergency, closed  
26 many businesses, especially ones where crowds gathered, including casinos, resulting in  
27 revenue losses for the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino; and  
28

29 **WHEREAS**, in August 2020, casinos including the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino were  
30 allowed to, and did, reopen with a limited capacity and began making revenue once  
31 again that should have been shared with the State and local governments; and  
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33 **WHEREAS**, on December 11, 2022 partial payments of this gaming revenue were  
34 made to two of the seven counties and the towns within; and  
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36 **WHEREAS**, to date, there have been no payments by the State to the remaining five  
37 region counties since the last quarter of 2019; and  
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39 **WHEREAS**, this funding is needed by the counties to fix roads, support social services,  
40 and provide for public health and safety; and  
41

42 **WHEREAS**, the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe and the counties of New York have a long  
43 history of productive partnerships and respect; and  
44

45 **WHEREAS**, while New York State has helped to get two of the region’s counties  
46 needed gaming funding, not easing the financial burden on the remaining five counties  
47 is an inequitable solution that needs to be fixed; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the State of New York has created a system by which vital local services  
2 are dependent on continued revenue being received and distributed to local  
3 governments through casino gaming, yet the State has not made a contingency plan  
4 and/or ignored the needs of local governments when this revenue is lowered or  
5 withheld; and  
6

7 **WHEREAS**, in Western New York, Governor Hochul and the Seneca Nation resolved a  
8 non-payment to the State issue last year, understanding the importance of the  
9 continued funding for these local services.  
10

11 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of  
12 Counties (NYSAC) calls on the State of New York to immediately make all municipalities  
13 whole for the funding being withheld by the State by either lack of collection from the St.  
14 Regis Mohawk Tribe or collected and not passed through in a timely manner; and  
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16 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, in the alternative, if the state is unwilling to make all  
17 local governments whole, and if the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe desires to assist local  
18 governments directly, the State will not see this as a violation, nor will this act be subject  
19 to the terms of the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe and New York State Compact; and  
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21 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, copies of this resolution be sent to the counties of  
22 New York State encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and  
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24 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to  
25 Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State Legislature, the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe,  
26 and all others deemed necessary and proper.