

1 **NYSAC 2022 Fall 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 Promptly and Equitably**  
6 **Secure with the Seneca Nation a Continuing Compact Agreement that is**  
7 **Beneficial to all Parties and Local Governments**  
8

9 **WHEREAS**, in 2002, the State of New York and the Seneca Nation entered into a compact  
10 with a provision that gaming revenue would be shared with the State in return for certain  
11 gaming exclusivity rights in Western New York; and  
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13 **WHEREAS**, under law the State of New York shares with local governments, including 16  
14 counties in Western New York, a portion of gaming revenue they receive from the Seneca  
15 Nation; and  
16

17 **WHEREAS**, this significant amount of local government funding is a key element in  
18 helping counties maintain infrastructure and provide public safety for all residents as well  
19 as provide services needed to help support this growing gaming industry; and  
20

21 **WHEREAS**, in 2017, a dispute between the Seneca Nation and the State arose over the  
22 language within the compact, leading the Nation to stop revenue sharing payments to the  
23 State; and  
24

25 **WHEREAS**, this revenue loss amounts to over \$50 million annually to the local  
26 governments in Western New York; and  
27

28 **WHEREAS**, during the entirety of the dispute the State did not fund most Western County  
29 local governments for the amounts they typically receive from Compact gaming revenue,  
30 which disrupted local service levels and highlighted how necessary it is for this revenue to  
31 remain consistent and predicable; and  
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33 **WHEREAS**, in 2022, the State of New York announced the resolution of this matter and  
34 that back payments from the past four plus years were sent to the State and local  
35 governments and stated negotiations on a new compact between the State and the Nation  
36 will begin; and  
37

38 **WHEREAS**, the New York Association of Counties (NYSAC) appreciates the efforts of  
39 Governor Hochul to resolve this Compact dispute and understanding the importance of this  
40 gaming revenue for local service needs; and  
41

42 **WHEREAS**, the current gaming compact between the Seneca Nation and New York state  
43 expires in December 2023; and  
44

45 **WHEREAS**, recently the Seneca Nation President Matthew Pagels stated the Seneca  
46 Nation notified the state that they were prepared to begin new negotiations, initiating a 180-  
47 day grace period to start in earnest; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the Seneca Nation and the counties of New York have a strong relationship  
2 and the counties appreciate this partnership, and value the rich history and the significant  
3 positive benefit the Nation brings to all in Western New York.  
4  
5 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, NYSAC calls on the State of New York to  
6 come to an agreement with the Seneca Nation to extend the Compact beyond December  
7 2023; and  
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9 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, any changes to the new Compact should benefit all  
10 parties and be equitable and fair to the Seneca Nation; and  
11  
12 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the State must continue to provide gaming revenue in a  
13 similar fashion to local governments in 2023 and beyond to support critical local services  
14 for all residents in need; and  
15  
16 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be sent to the counties of  
17 New York State, encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and  
18  
19 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to  
20 Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State Legislature, Seneca Nation of Indians, and all  
21 others deemed necessary and proper.