

1 **NYSAC 2024 Fall Seminar**  
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, and 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  
16

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  
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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  
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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 in quarterly payments with the State and local  
32 governments; and  
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34 **WHEREAS**, in 2022 and 2023 the State made partial payments of gaming revenue to  
35 the seven counties in this region; however, these payments did not continue; and  
36

37 **WHEREAS**, this funding is needed by the counties to fix roads, support social services,  
38 and provide for public health and safety; and  
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40 **WHEREAS**, the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe and the counties of New York have a long  
41 history of productive partnerships and respect; and  
42

43 **WHEREAS**, the State of New York has created a system by which vital local services  
44 are dependent on continued revenue being received and distributed to local

1 governments through casino gaming, yet the State has not made a contingency plan  
2 and/or ignored the needs of local governments when this revenue is lowered or  
3 withheld.

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5 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of  
6 Counties (NYSAC) calls on the State of New York to immediately make all municipalities  
7 whole for the funding being withheld by the State by either lack of collection from the St.  
8 Regis Mohawk Tribe or collected and not passed through in a timely manner; and

9  
10 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, if future payments are withheld by the Mohawk tribe,  
11 the State shall make all municipalities impacted whole in timely quarterly payments;  
12 and

13  
14 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, copies of this resolution be sent to the counties of  
15 New York State encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and

16  
17 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to  
18 Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State Legislature, the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe,  
19 and all others deemed necessary and proper.