

STOP CASINO EXPANSION



BACKGROUND

The Little River Band (LRB) opened the Little River Casino Resort in Manistee on their reservation land over 20 years ago under their approved tribal compact with the State of Michigan and the oversight of the National Indian Gaming Commission.

The tribal compacts are written agreements between the tribal communities and the State of Michigan. As part of the LRB's tribal compact with the state signed in 1998, the tribe agreed to operate only one casino and that one casino would be located on their reservation property in Manistee or Mason Counties.

For the past several years, the LRB has been trying to negotiate a change in their tribal compact to allow for another casino. The problem with their proposal, and why in large part it has not been approved, is that the proposed casino is 90 miles south of their existing reservation and could open the door to other tribes to open "off-reservation" casinos of their own. This could result in an explosion of other casinos around the state.

CURRENT STATUS

The LRB is proposing an "off-reservation" casino at the former Great Lakes Downs horse track in Muskegon County. Currently the proposal is under review by the Department of Interior's (DOI) Bureau of Indian Affairs.

NEXT STEPS IN THE PROCESS

If the DOI approves the proposal, which they may not do, the Governor still must agree to the new casino and an amended tribal compact AND the Michigan House and Senate must approve or reject the agreement due to the significant changes to LRB's tribal compact.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

There are already 27 casinos in the state and that number will surely skyrocket if tribes are allowed to open "off-reservation" casinos. There are already proposals from other Michigan tribes wanting to open "off-reservation" casinos all around the state. We must stop this casino expansion now before it is too late. Here is what you can do to help:

- Contact your state legislators, legislative leaders and local officials and tell them that you oppose this casino gaming expansion and any amendment to the gaming compact to allow for "off-reservation" gaming.
- Ask these officials to send a clear message to the Governor that we don't need more casinos in Michigan.
- Share your opposition in person and online to this "off-reservation" casino expansion with your friends, family, neighbors and co-workers.