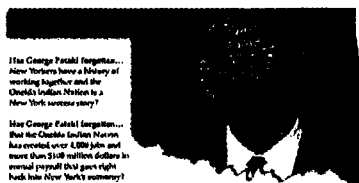


Out of towners

N.Y. Gov. Pataki signs more controversial casino compacts with non-state tribes

Gov. George Pataki has reached agreements with two more tribes to develop casinos in New York's Catskills region in return for extinguishing their long-standing land claims, the Associated Press reported. The bound-to-be controversial agreements allow the Wisconsin-based Oneidas and Stockbridge Munsee to develop gaming operations in the region.

Has George Pataki forgotten that he is the Governor of New York and not Oklahoma?



Has George Pataki forgotten... how the Oneidas have a history of working together and the Oneida Indian Nation is a New York sovereign?

Has George Pataki forgotten... that the Oneida Indian Nation has created over 1,000 jobs and more than \$100 million dollars in annual payroll that goes right back into New York's economy?

Why does Governor Pataki want to let Oklahoma's tribes open casinos there and take the profits back to Oklahoma... hurting New Yorkers?

Has George Pataki forgotten... that he is Governor of New York and NOT Oklahoma?

Call the Governor.

Tell him, now more than ever, we need to do what's best for New York... not Oklahoma.

The New York Oneida have run a series of ads in hopes of stopping out-of-state tribal casinos.

The Pataki administration said the agreement settles the Oneidas' claims to 250,000 acres of land in Oneida and Madison counties of central New York that the Oneidas contend was improperly purchased from them in the 18th and 19th centuries.

"Today we are encouraged that after 200 years of dedicated pursuit of an honorable conclusion to our land claim we are realizing a significant step," said Cristina Danforth, chairwoman of the Oneida Tribe of Indians.

Stockbridge-Munsee President Bob Chicks said it has been more than 200 years since his

people were removed from ancestral land in New York. He said the deal with the Pataki administration is "a big step toward redressing that wrong."

The United States recognizes the Stockbridge-Munsee as the rightful successor in interest to the Mohican Indians, who once occupied lands in the Hudson and Champlain valleys of New York state.

The agreements are subject to approval by the state Legislature and federal officials.

The settlements bring to four the number of agreements that Pataki has reached with tribes that include authorization to operate casinos in the Catskills. Deals have been made with the Cayuga Indian Nation of New York and the Seneca-Cayuga tribe of Oklahoma to also operate casinos, both in Monticello, about 90 miles northwest of New York City. A third compact under the 2001 law is expected to go to the Mohawk Indian Nation.

In announcing this past month that he wanted five Indian casinos in the Catskills, not three, Pataki noted that he would need approval from the Legislature for the other two.

Other tribes in the state have expressed varying degrees of interest in developing a casino in the Catskills, among them the Seneca and the New York Oneida. Each of those tribes already have their own successful gaming properties. The Oneida own the Turning Stone Resort outside Syracuse and the Seneca own Seneca Niagara Casino in Niagara Falls, with another development planned outside Buffalo.

The Oneida have been extremely outspoken about their opposition to out of state tribes—like Oklahoma's Seneca Cayuga—developing gaming enterprises in the Empire State. The tribe has been running a \$1 million advertising campaign against Pataki's deal with the Seneca-Cayuga.

"All this means is millions more going out of state," Mark Emery, a spokesman for the Oneida Indian Nation, told the Associated Press. "Just as the Oneida Nation predicted, the floodgates are opened and the governor wants more casinos to give out-of-state tribes."

While the various tribes celebrated, some local politicians argued that the whole thing has happened far too fast.

"Whatever you agree to in haste, you are going to have to live with forever," Rep. Maurice Hinchey, D-Saugerties, told the *Ottaway News Service*. Hinchey's district includes some of the casino sites. "We better well know what we are agreeing to."

—Matt Connor