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**Gov. Granholm's response to MichGo comments**

Updated: March 2, 2007 08:57 PM

A number of news stories on recent developments in the Gun Lake litigation have contained a statement from MichGo to the effect that, if the state were to enter into a gaming compact with the Gun Lake tribe, it would jeopardize deals with other Indian casinos because those deals gave tribes exclusive rights to gaming operations. MichGo's statement is not correct.

It is true that the seven original tribal gaming agreements in 1993 provided for payments to the state based on the tribes having exclusive rights to casino gaming; because of this requirement, the payment obligation of these seven tribes was effectively ended by both the voter approval of the Detroit casinos and the approval of four additional tribal compacts in 1998.

But subsequent compacts have addressed this problem differently by promising a more limited form of exclusivity. Under the 1998 compacts, for example, exclusivity payments to the state are not affected by the three Detroit casinos or by a tribal casino operated by a federal acknowledged tribe operating under a compact with the state. Because Gun Lake is a federally acknowledged tribe, a compact with them would not affect the exclusivity payments from the 1998 compact tribes. So a new non-tribal casino would terminate tribal payments to the state; but a compact with Gun Lake would not affect any tribal payments the state is currently entitled to receive.

I have attached copies of the 1993 stipulation and also one of the 1998 compacts that you can provide to any reporter who may wish to check sources on this. (These documents are also available on the [Michigan Gaming Control Board's website](#).) For the exclusivity language applicable to the original seven compacts in 1993, see paragraph 7 on page 5 of the stipulation. For an example of the exclusivity language applicable under the four 1998 compacts, see section 17(B) of the Little River Band's compact, page 17.

Please feel free to call me if you have any further questions.

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