



NEW JERSEY SENATE

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November 28, 2011

Pastor John Norwood
Tribal Councilman
Nanticoke Leni-Lenape Tribal Nation
18 East Commerce Street
P.O. Box 544
Bridgeton, NJ 08302

Dear Pastor Norwood,

Thank you for your correspondence of November 21 and the accompanying legal opinions; unfortunately they do not directly address the real problem. The issue is can state recognition lead to federal recognition which in turn could lead to a New Jersey tribe conducting gaming under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act. Clearly, state recognition alone is not enough to conduct gaming under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, as the legal opinions you have provided confirm.

While current leadership can assert that they have no interest in gaming, leadership changes over time and a new group of leaders could pursue federal recognition and gaming. How can we prevent that? That is the essential question.

Any insights you have to resolve that problem would be much appreciated. I will continue to work with you to that end.

Sincerely,

Jim Whelan