

# Guide for Calling Your Legislators

Step 1: Identify who your legislator is by calling the House Public Information Service, 1-800-657-3350 or the Senate Information Office, 1-800-627-5329.

Question: Should I call and write letters? Answer: YES! Call and write to both your senator and representative, and do so often.

Step 2: Prepare your thoughts using the guide to the right, and then place the call.

Step 3: Introduce yourself. Let them know you are a constituent and explain that you are calling about the Minnesota Indian Urban Casino Act.

Step 4: Explain which band you belong to and why an urban casino is important to you. Use a personal story or experience, or simply explain that a casino in the Twin Cities area would allow the bands the economic self sufficiency experienced by the other tribes in health care, education, housing, and economic development.

Step 5: Explain why White Earth and Red Lake need the casino legislation.

Step 6: Ask if they will support the Minnesota Indian urban Casino Act. If they haven't made up their mind, ask them to let you know when they decide.

Step 7: Express your appreciation - even if they haven't pledged their support, thank them for their time.

When you call, chances are that you will reach an answering machine or legislative assistant, so be ready to leave a message.

## Greeting:

Don't forget to say, "hello," if you do speak with a legislator directly, call them "Senator" or "Representative."

## Say that you are a constituent:

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am a constituent. I live at

\_\_\_\_\_.

(If applicable, say "I voted for you in the last election.")

Get straight to the point, **IN YOUR OWN WORDS:**

I am calling to ask you to support the Minnesota Indian Urban Casino Act. I am an enrolled member of the \_\_\_\_\_ band of Chippewa. A casino in the metropolitan area is important to me because

\_\_\_\_\_.

**OR:** An urban casino is important to White Earth and Red Lake communities because

\_\_\_\_\_.

**Here are some points you can make to be persuasive - but it is always better if you USE YOUR OWN WORDS. DO NOT repeat this text exactly:**

- White Earth and Red Lake need the Minnesota Indian Urban Casino Act because we want to provide for our basic needs of housing, education, health care and economic development.
- The Minnesota Indian Urban Casino Act is designed to generate revenue for the State of Minnesota, Indian communities, needy urban Indians, addiction prevention programs, and the host city.
- White Earth and Red Lake Indians need the Minnesota Indian Urban Casino Act for the state and our tribal partners so that we may participate in the prosperity of Indian communities near the state's population centers.

## Ask for their support:

"Will you support the Minnesota Indian Urban Casino Act?"

## Ask for an update on their position:

If they haven't made up their mind, ask them to call and let you know when they decide.

## Say Thank You!

"Thank you very much for your time and your support."  
(If they give it)