

URBAN CASINO Q&A

Q: I don't know how this would help me or my family?

A: The urban casino is proposed to create 2000 direct jobs in the metropolitan area and urban minorities are included in the profit share.

Q: Why does the tribe want to pursue gaming in the cities?

A: Our rural areas cannot realize the profit that is only reachable at a location with higher populations (and tourists). Revenue is badly needed for us to improve our infrastructure and economic development back home.

Q: What would this casino do to the surrounding casinos already operated by Indian Tribes?

A: Our goal is not to negatively impact any other operation, we believe the market share (primarily tourism) is big enough to support additional gaming.

Q: Is this going to open up gambling throughout the state?

A: No, the bill we are proposing to the MN legislatures actually includes a moratorium on state gaming (no new gaming for twenty-years), this would protect the future of Indian Gaming as nothing is stopping the state from adding it now.

Q: What other Reservations are supporting this?

A: All eleven Tribes in MN have been invited to join, however, only the White Earth and Red Lake Nations are supporting the bill at this time. Together the two Tribes make up 70% of the enrolled population in the State. The other nine Tribes belong to MIGA (MN Indian Gaming Association) who voted against it.

Q: How do the profits get split?

A: 50% to the Tribes involved
40% to the State (of which 10% goes to urban Indian programs – St. Paul, Bemidji and Duluth for health, housing and economic development)
10% to the State Lottery for managing.

Q: Would there be an Indian Preference used for hiring?

A: Yes, the goal would be to employ at least 55% minorities.

Q: Where would the casino be located?

A: Negotiations are still underway with the urban cities. Feel free to suggest your recommendation when you contact your legislatures.

Q: How did this idea get started?

A: Both Red Lake and White Earth have casinos, but they cannot ever realize the profits that only the urban locations see. The Tribes started the idea last year and present it as a win-win situation for Tribes and the State.

Q: Where is the money coming from to build the facility?

A: If we can get the State legislature to pass the Gaming Equity Bill, financing options would be determined. Current programs and services would not be cut to generate money for the building, we would seek financing at a low interest rate.