



PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA

FAQ

Casino Resort in Carter Lake, Iowa

Land

Q: What is “trust land” and how can it be used?

A: Land held in federal trust allows the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska to exercise their rights as an independent, sovereign nation on soil they own. The use of trust lands is governed by the Tribe, subject to some federal restrictions; the land is not subject to state laws. Tribes can operate casinos on trust land under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988, which allows tribes and states to work together to ensure that tribal gaming is consistent with existing state gaming policy.

Q: Is it true the Ponca Tribe promised not to develop a casino in Carter Lake?

As early as October 2000, the Tribe said publicly that it may someday pursue gaming in Carter Lake. There is no legally binding agreement with the State of Iowa preventing gaming on the Carter Lake trust land. Further, the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska has the legal right to build a casino resort in Carter Lake, Iowa, and the State of Iowa must negotiate a compact agreement with the Tribe. It is true that the Tribe did not intend to put a casino on that land; only after other economic development initiatives proved unprofitable did the Tribe explore gaming. The National Indian Gaming Commission has ruled that tribes maintain the right to explore gaming opportunities on tribal land. The Commission further ruled that the Ponca Tribe may develop a casino on the Carter Lake land because the Tribe has historic and modern connections to the parcel which was taken into trust within a few years of the Tribe’s restoration. The Commission’s determinations are based on objective factors outside the control of the Tribe or any other party.

The State of Iowa’s attack on the established legal rights of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska is a needless misuse of tax dollars; the only legal action required by Iowa at this point is the swift and respectful entry into compact negotiations with the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska.

Market

Q: Is there room for more gaming in Iowa?

A: Expansion of gaming is expected even without the Ponca Tribe’s casino. Including the Ponca Tribe’s casino, we estimate there will be 3,200 new gaming positions within a one-hour drive from Carter Lake by 2012. As more gaming is developed, the market potential and participation increase. Our economic impact studies show strong demand for the entertainment the Tribe is going to deliver, and we’re confident that our resort – including nearly 1,800 new jobs – will benefit the local economy.

Impacts

Q: How do you respond to Nebraska leaders who fear a strain on state and local infrastructure surrounding Carter Lake, Iowa?

A: The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska plans to build a world-class casino resort benefiting our members and the communities we serve. In addition to a mutually beneficial relationship with local governments, we're confident that the economic impact of our resort – including nearly 1,800 new jobs, almost \$17 million in payroll taxes, almost \$37 million in annual purchases from Iowa and Nebraska, and a \$100 million increase in annual output for Douglas County alone – will benefit the local economy.

Q: What will the Tribe do about what Nebraska's governor calls "the social ills associated with problem gambling"?

The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska is creating a casino resort to benefit our 2,700 members and the communities we serve in Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota.

Rights

Q: What role does Iowa have in the Tribe's casino plans?

A: The State of Iowa must enter a compact agreement with the Ponca Tribe; this agreement sets the terms for the operation of the Class III (casino) gaming. Iowa has already negotiated such gaming compacts with three other tribal governments (Meskwaki, Omaha and Winnebago) and allowed expansion of casino gaming across the state. The Ponca Tribe expects nothing less than equal treatment from Governor Culver – equal respect for our tribal government and equal support for the economic advancement and independence of our members.

###

Visit <http://www.poncatribe-ne.org> for more information.