

## Ponca Tribe of Nebraska

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Lincoln, NE 68508

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June 13, 1008

Chester J. Culver  
Office of The Governor  
State Capitol  
Des Moines, IA 50319

RE: Compact negotiations

Governor Culver:

It is with great disappointment that I write to you regarding your public announcement of a decision to legally contest the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska's right to build a world-class casino resort on restored tribal land in Carter Lake, Iowa.

I must remind you that the Tribe's attorneys had been requesting a meeting regarding our intentions in Carter Lake since April – requests you continually ignored.

Meanwhile, we have kept a low public profile on our project out of respect for your government, affording you the opportunity to review the sound arguments and facts presented in the National Indian Gaming Commission decision.

Had the Tribe been afforded the respectful opportunity to discuss our project with you, we would have explored the path that led our Tribe to secure the right to develop a casino in Carter Lake. I could have reminded you that there is no legally binding agreement with the State of Iowa preventing gaming on the Carter Lake trust land. And, more importantly, it may have prevented you from publicly suggesting that the Tribe misled the State regarding our right to pursue gaming as an economic development engine. Simply put, the State has always known that the Tribe could pursue gaming in the future and if the State wanted to limit that right, it could have done so with a legally binding document in return for valuable consideration to the Tribe.

The Tribe's rights and responsibilities as a government are no different from your own, so let me remind you of your State's evolution as a host to casino gaming.

*Governor Culver*  
*June 13, 2008*  
*PAGE 2*

In just over two decades, the State of Iowa has grown into a home for 14 casinos which take in billions each year. The State has continually loosened restrictions on the gaming allowed by these operations, and is actively considering additional casino locations. Moreover, the State has negotiated gaming compacts with three other Native American tribes.

Casino gaming continues to grow in Iowa and our Tribe, which is no different than the other Tribes in Iowa, has the right to be a part of this growth.

Your intent to litigate is a disservice to the people of Iowa and greatly disrespectful to the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska. We want equal support for the economic advancement and independence of our members, and we will not tolerate continued hypocrisy.

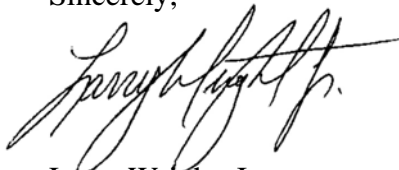
At this point, we will be taking our project to the people of your state. Our members in Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota need to understand what's at stake, as do your citizens.

I'm hopeful that you will change your mind regarding legal action. I'm hopeful that we can meet to discuss the benefits of our project to the Tribe and the communities we serve in Iowa.

And I welcome a call from you any time; my mobile phone number is xxx.xxx.xxxx

Meanwhile, we are going to respond publicly and continuously to your attempt to distract from your responsibilities to Iowans and the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry Wright, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Larry Wright, Jr.  
Chairman

CC: Attorney General Tom Miller  
Dean Lerner, Director, Department of Inspections and Appeals