



JIM DOYLE
GOVERNOR
STATE OF WISCONSIN

May 26, 2006

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY:

I am vetoing Assembly Bill 461. Under federal law, the Secretary of Interior must first obtain the Governor's concurrence before allowing gaming on land not owned by a tribe prior to when the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act went into effect. This bill provides that the Governor may not concur with the Secretary of the Interior, unless the state legislature first concurs by joint resolution.

Assembly Bill 461 is an attempt to circumvent federal law regarding the approval of off-reservation gaming. Federal law is clear: the concurrence of off-reservation gaming has been exclusively provided to the Governor, and to the Governor alone. Congress recognized the inherent practical difficulties in involving multiple parties in the concurrence process and made a reasoned decision in selecting governors as the state's representative. Moreover, Congress clearly understood the difference between granting authority to a state versus granting authority specifically to a Governor. In fact, Congress granted the power to negotiate gaming compacts to the state, but named the Governor, specifically, with respect to off-reservation gaming concurrence. This bill negates that determination made by Congress.

Lastly, the federal approval process is not without significant procedural and substantive safeguards. The Indian Gaming Regulatory Act provides for a rigorous and lengthy process that includes extensive study and an opportunity for significant community involvement. If the federal government were to ever approve an off-reservation casino and a decision came before me – which is by no means certain – I would of course take the views of the community into account.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM DOYLE
Governor