



January 26, 2016

**Media Release** from the Washington State Gambling Commission

**Tribal and State negotiators have reached a tentative agreement with the Skokomish Indian Tribe on an amendment to their Class III Gaming Compact.** "The Commission takes its government-to-government responsibilities seriously and we are proud of the outcome of these compact negotiations" said Gambling Commission Chair Chris Stearns, adding "Tribal gaming will continue to benefit tribal citizens, as well as the people of Washington, under this agreement."

Below is a summary of the proposed amendment, which is consistent with several other tribes' gaming compacts. ([Click here for the full proposed amendment](#)):

- Increase number of Class III gaming facilities from one to two.
- Include the definition of Indian Lands from the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act to align Compact definition with the Act and allow a gaming facility on qualifying land that is not within the reservation boundaries.
- Add the Tribe's corporation, Skokomish Indian Tribal Enterprise, Incorporated (SITE) to allow the Class III gaming facility to be owned by the Tribe or the Tribe's enterprise corp.
- Add the definition of Gaming or Gaming Activity from the Tribe's Gaming Ordinance.
- Add annual reporting of how problem gambling funds from Appendix X2 were used.

#### **The Process from Here**

1. Formal notification about the proposed Compact amendment are conveyed to the Governor, Legislature and others.
2. The designated standing committees of the Legislature will hold public hearings within 45 days after receiving the proposed Compact amendment ([RCW 9.46.360](#)).
  - a. The Senate Commerce and Labor Committee is holding a hearing Friday January 29, 2016, at 8:00 a.m. in the J.A. Cherberg Building, Hearing Room #1.
  - b. The House Commerce and Gaming Committee will hold a hearing on the proposed Compact amendment. The hearing will likely be scheduled after February 5, 2016.
3. The Gambling Commission will vote on Friday, March 11, 2016, and decide whether to forward the proposed Compact amendment to the Governor. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. at the Great Wolf Lodge, 20500 Old Highway 99 SW, Grand Mound, WA 98531, phone number: (360) 273-7718.
4. If the Commission approves the Tribe's amendment, it will be sent to the Tribal Chair for final consideration and signature.
5. If the Commission approves and the Tribal Chair signs the amendment, it will be sent to the Governor for final consideration and signature.
6. After obtaining the signatures of the Tribal Chair and Governor, the Tribe will send it to the Secretary of the United States Department of Interior for consideration, signature, and publication in the Federal Register.

**For questions, contact:** Susan Newer, Public Information Officer  
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