

JOSEPH A. GRIFFO
SENATOR, 47TH DISTRICT



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December 2, 2010

Gov. David Paterson
Executive Chamber
State Capitol
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Paterson:

On behalf of all New Yorkers who would be impacted by the proposed agreement with the Stockbridge-Munsee tribe that will allow the tribe to develop a Catskill Casino and give up their Central New York land claims, I am urging you to immediately make public all of the terms and conditions of this agreement.

Secrecy in government is not to be tolerated when public business and public money is at stake. This is a major agreement that impacts people all across New York State, and the people should have the opportunity to see the terms of the agreement and react to them prior to final federal approval.

Reform and open government should be watchwords of how New York State operates. Keeping this deal a secret is a disservice to the people who are directly impacted in my Central New York District and in the region of the proposed casino as well as all the citizens of New York who are impacted by the actions of state government.

In addition to the release of the terms and conditions being the right thing to do, I also believe, based on my reading of New York's Freedom of Information law, that the law is also on the side of releasing this agreement. Simply because federal approvals are yet to be made does not mean that the people have no rights to see what the state is asking the federal government to approve. This is not an internal discussion draft that is being reviewed; it is a final agreement.

The best way to ensure that we have a good deal and a fair deal for all involved is to lay out all the details to the people. The document is a major public document and should be released at once.

Please have your staff deliver this important document to my Albany Senate office immediately so that I can share this document with the people of New York.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph A. Griffo".

Joseph A. Griffo
Senator