



CERF/CERA REPORT



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A Message from the Chair of CERA By Judy Bachmann

Increasingly, across the country the topic of Federal Government overreach appears in more and more news reports and gatherings of concerned citizens. The scandals surrounding the EPA, IRS, Benghazi, immigration, Fast and Furious, Obama Care and even Ebola swirl around the federal government and its' executive branch overreach into the lives of the people of the United States. CERA and CERF have been working on this matter of overreach for many years through their objection to the Federal Indian Policy of the U.S. Executive Branch. Fee to Trust and Treatment Similar to States are just examples of the way the Department of Interior affects everyday lives across the country. This issue of the CERA/CERF Report contains many stories of just such overreach. Two articles regarding what has happened in New York may be the tip of the iceberg that has the potential of swallowing up little towns and counties all across America under one big Federal Government bureaucracy.

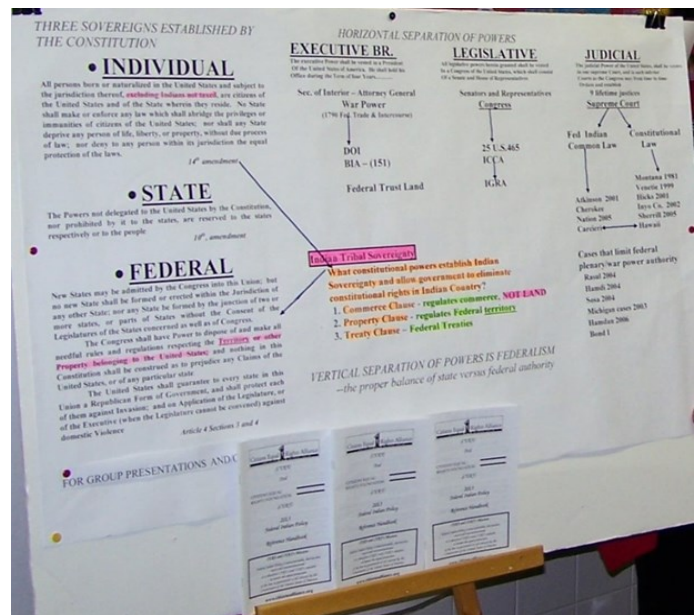
Two of the articles within this issue draw particular attention to the ramifications of what can happen when a state governor colludes with a tribe to eliminate the rights of the people within a state. There has never been any federal land in NY and yet in spite of a federal court order, the states' jurisdiction and sovereignty has been transferred to the federal government on behalf of the tribe. Without any input from the towns most affected, or their citizens, Governor Cuomo of New York, two counties and the tribe recently signed a settlement agreement. The settlement agrees to rescind ALL of the court cases previously won by the state and counties and withdraw the case that was currently before SCOTUS for the second time. Millions of dollars in due tax revenue have been forgiven along with

signed contracts agreeing to NEVER challenge the agreement. The "settlement agreement" reinstated a land claim that was extinguished in the courts and agrees to the establishment of 250,000 acres of federal reservation. This leaves the small towns of Vernon and Verona alone to fight the US Government, State of New York and their county on their own.

In spite of the DOI not signing on to the agreement, and a federal court order stating that the land cannot be taken into trust, **Thousands** of acres have been transferred to title of the Federal Government. Political pressure and financial repercussions are running rampant against the towns. If the towns of Vernon and Verona, New York, are considered expendable today, your town may be next.

The Constitution Simplified

A few years ago during a discussion of the United States Constitution someone indicated that it was too bad that there wasn't a graphic to help understand the separation of powers and the sovereignty



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A Municipality Pushes Back

By Elaine Willman

Director of Community Development & Tribal Affairs, Village of Hobart, WI

Sometimes we have to teach people how to treat us, and that is what the elected officials of the Village of Hobart have been doing over the recent years. For decades prior to 2007 the Village Board's policy was to make every effort to cooperate, understand and befriend the co-located tribal government of the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin.

Efforts to cooperate with the tribal government resulted in the tribe obstructing a series of major municipal projects, and acquiring over one-fourth of the land in the 33-square mile municipality during a period of time when Hobart officials had signed a service agreement which included not objecting to land proposed for federal trust.

In 2008 Hobart reversed course. It started objecting to any parcels being removed from the municipal tax base, and defended itself against numerous tribal suits filed from 2008 through 2013. The bottom line:

1. Hobart was able to preserve restrictive covenants on a premier golf course acquired by the tribe, prohibiting the tribe from placing the property into federal trust, or implementing any gambling on the site.
2. Prevailed in defending its rights to eminent domain of free-taxable tribal property purchased to block a major mixed-use development project of the municipality.
3. Stopped 3,000 acres of taxable property from being placed into federal trust for the Oneidas, preserving the municipal tax base. The tribe and regional BIA office had simply not bothered following their own regulations.
4. Discovered that an abandoned railway claimed to be held in trust by the tribe was never in federal trust and returned the abandoned railway parcels into the municipal tax base. This has ended the tribe's ability to deny "tribal easements" to landlocked adjacent property owners who were unable to develop their lands.

5. Has recently informed the tribe that nearly 400 acres of existing federal trust has no federal proof of actual federal approvals for "trust" designation; these parcels will also be restored to the tax base unless the tribal government can show proof otherwise. Hobart has lost tax revenue for many years from existing trust parcels not properly placed into federal trust.

Yes, the annual legal expenses were occasionally significant, but the preservation of the municipality's tax base has offset the majority of legal fees. As important, the ability of the Hobart elected officials and staff to retain jurisdiction for purposes of long-term planning, zoning, law enforcement and other pertinent municipal services has been significantly strengthened by taking an assertive position to preserve the local representative government against a previously aggressive tribe. Mutual respect has much improved as well.

A Regional Conference in Your Area?

For the past dozen years the volunteers that make up the CERA and CERF boards of directors have traveled at their own expense to come together and discuss the issues surrounding applications of Federal Indian Policy on governments and everyday lives of United States citizens. Thousands of miles traveled from all corners of the US to share concerns and consider what can be done to address those situations facing our nation. The boards, who are your neighbors and everyday citizens believe in the constitution and are working to protect its application equally to all. Two years ago the boards decided to take our message to you in the form of **Regional Conferences**. Each of the seven held so far have garnered success and the message has reached a multitude more citizens than are able to afford the time and money for a trip to Washington. Your dues and donations make possible the educational publications necessary to promote **Many Peoples, One Nation, One Law** at these conferences. CERA/CERF would like to come to your area. We need a host and a willingness to support the effort. Contact Judy to discuss your desire for a regional conference in your area (315) 829-3843.

SEE PHOTO ON BACK PAGE

The following letter represents the views of the members of the town councils of Vernon and Verona, NY. It was written by Ken Regner, a member of the Verona Town Council.

To the Editor:

Our founding fathers created this exceptional nation on one basic principle: that we would be a nation of laws, not a nation of men.

In the spirit of July 4 weekend, our choice over two centuries ago to rule ourselves is based on the idea that no man--or one level of government--should possess unlimited authority.

We would be a nation of laws, not a nation of men.

It is this principle that guides the decision of the towns of Verona and Vernon to continue **legal action** preventing the national government from placing land into federal trust. There has not been one federal court decision--zero, zip--that has given the green light to the federal Department of the Interior to set the dangerous precedent of usurping New York State sovereignty by reclassifying property rights within our town borders to satisfy the state and Oneida County's narrow agenda.

Yet those with more influence than two small rural towns continued to push for final resolution, without allowing the taxpayers with the most to lose representation at the negotiating table. What person would agree to sign any business deal in which he had no right to a voice in the negotiations?

Nobody.

And neither will the Verona and Vernon townships under the same circumstances. We don't like the behind-the-doors process in which the contract was reached. And we towns have a right to challenge that process.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo circumvented federal court decisions and Vernon and Verona's taxpayers and strong-armed a deal in exchange for increased tax revenue by expanding casino gambling across the state. The state Legislature follows by quickly

greasing the legislation--voting on a pact that included blank fill-in-the-details-later pages with little thought to the long term impact this deal will have on school, property, sales and bed tax revenues on our taxpayers.

But we are a nation of laws, not of men.

What person would agree to sign any business deal in which he had no right to a voice in the negotiations? Nobody.

The Verona and Vernon town councils can take the easy route and become obediently dependent on anticipated state and county payments from Cuomo's pact. We can trust that payments will continue without interruption. We can hope that future payments will increase to cover the rate of inflation, unfounded state mandates, and make up for the lost revenue when a majority of the taxable properties are taken and placed into federal trust.

We can ignore the small print of the pact and not question the impact reclassifying land rights by the federal government will have on us and our municipal home rule rights.

But we, the town councils, cannot make our decisions based solely on speculated revenue and vague legal consults from our elected county representatives. We must consider the impacts this deal will have on all of us 10, 20, even 50 years down the road.

When our Constitution was written, it was agreed that a federal system of government would serve its people best. The vision was not to place the majority of the decision-making with the national government--nor even the states--but rather with the local governments. A central, state and county government that becomes so powerful that it can ignore its own laws and the decisions of the federal courts, does not honor the principle that established this nation.

But we are still a nation of laws, not men.

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Montana: A Self-Imploding State

By Elaine Willman, MPA

It is remarkable how seven small tribes in enormous Montana have substantially co-opted the state legislature, and offices of the Governor and Attorney General. So much so, that nearly one-third of the State's population is now at risk of losing their water rights, State Constitutional protections for citizens, and State jurisdiction within 11 Western counties in Montana. And causing this? A three pronged assault by the Confederated Band of the Salish Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) that is being supported by the State Legislator.

The assaults are:

Lawsuit: A February 27th lawsuit filed by the CSKT against the State, two State water courts, irrigation districts, and John Does 1 through thousands, claiming 100% of all waters flowing into, through and beyond the Flathead Indian Reservation. This is the upstream watershed that merges into the Columbia River system.

Kerr Dam: A proposed September 2015 takeover of ownership and operation of Kerr Dam in Polson by the CSKT tribe. A promise was made in 1985 to this small tribe that is ill-equipped and inexperienced to take full control of a high-risk terror target such as Ker Dam, not far from Canadian border. When the Twin Towers fell in September 2001, the nations energy and power grid inclusive of all major dams became, and remains a major national security issue. This is not the time for a precedent to be set that transfers the first major dam to a small private tribal government.

State Compact: A proposed tri-party compact (Federal government, CSKT and State of Montana that A) removes all water rights (ownership) of private properties, counties and municipalities and converts them to "uses" as determined by the CSKT, B) a tribal government to set water uses and future rates for non-tribal persons and properties within 11 counties, and C) a contribution of \$55 million from Montana taxpayers, among the many benefits the federal government will also throw at the CSKT.

What's bringing this all about? The federal government is rolling out upon one reservation after another to assist tribes in claiming full control of State waters with resulting devastation to crop production and local business economies.

Devalued land will then be easily acquirable by the CSKT or feds. The reality is that the State of Montana is all but entirely giving away its authority and jurisdiction over State waters, properties and persons in 11 of its 55 counties.

If the Proposed CSKT Water Compact is passed by the State legislature in January 2015, the remaining six tribes east of the Rocky Mountains will immediately demand that their existing compacts be reopened to be provided the same control of water flowing into, through and beyond their six reservations, encompassing the Missouri and Mississippi watersheds in Eastern Montana.

The Native American population in Montana is 6.5% statewide, but only a valiant few legislators in Montana oppose the three-pronged burden keeping 350,000 Montana citizens awake at night in fear of their future. Citizens have been unable to find single law firms in the entire State that will help them fight for their waters rights, property rights, and State constitutional protections.

One of CERA's Board members provided a two-week educational and fact-finding mission among the 11 counties, and has assisted citizens in unifying and organizing their voices to stop the madness before "coin-operated" Montana legislators fully abandon their constituents.

We need to keep Montana in our prayers, and encourage the wonderful folks out there to do as CERA recommends: Fight Like Hell!

We'll let you know how things turned out in a future CERA Report.

Water Basins and Water Sheds subject to Proposed Montana-CSKT Water Compact



Update from California

By Butch Cranford



Voters Can Tell the Governor NO More Casinos!

Issues related to Federal Indian policy and Indian gaming in California during 2014 have been interesting to say the least. Opponents of an expansion of Indian casinos into urban areas collected the necessary signatures to place a state wide referendum on the November ballot that could override Governor Brown's incomprehensible approval of a two part fee to trust for the North Fork Band for a large Las Vegas style casino on Hwy 99 just North of the City of Madera.

The referendum (Proposition 48) affords the voters of California the opportunity to voice their disapproval of the action taken by the Governor and the California Legislature in approving a casino on Highway 99. Opponents of the casino have raised more than \$11 million for the No on Prop 48 campaign. The YES on Prop 48 campaign has raised a little more than \$400 thousand. Every major newspaper in California is recommending a NO vote on Prop 48. Based on all the media reports and what appears to be an overwhelming NO on Prop 48 campaign I am hopeful that the voters of California will reject this proposed casino. It is time the Governor and Legislature receive a strong message from voters that we do not want any more casinos in California.

A Million Dollar a Day Indian Casino Closed!

In a story related to the proposed casino in Madera, the Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians who operate the Chukchansi Gold Resort and Casino in Coarsegold had their casino closed by the National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC) for failure to file gambling revenue reports on time and by a Federal Judge for reasons of public safety. The reason for the late filing has been the infighting among tribal factions who all claim they are the legitimate tribal government. The infighting resulted in the use of firearms by one faction to take over the casino and create a serious public safety issue. This kind of infighting within the small California groups calling themselves

tribes is not unusual. Failure to file gambling revenue reports on time is not unusual either. In fact, according to a recent IG Report, late filing of these reports is the number one problem discovered by the Inspector General's Office during its investigation of the NIGC's oversight of Indian casinos. What is unusual is that the NIGC would actually close this casino for that reason. It is important to know that the Picayune Rancheria of Madera is located only 34 miles away and will seriously impact the more than one million dollar a day take at the Chukchansi casino.

Is it possible that the Picayune's and other gaming tribes are being sent a very clear message? Do not mess with the NIGC's and the Governor's approval of a large off reservation Las Vegas style casino on Highway 99. The casino proposed at Madera would, by virtue of its prime location (less than 30 minutes from Fresno and an hour from Modesto), be a much more profitable casino than the Chukchansi casino.

Ione Band Not Recognized in 1934

Decided in Federal Court in 1992

Finally to news about the June 2012 Federal District Court challenge filed by No Casino in Plymouth (NCIP) and Citizens Equal Rights Alliance (CERA) to the decision to take 228 acres into trust for the Ione Band for an off-reservation casino in Plymouth. Glacial best describes the pace of our case with not a single hearing held in two and a half years. In an effort to expedite a decision NCIP/CERA filed a motion for judgment on the pleadings in February of this year. The motion was based on a 1992 Federal District Court Order and a 1996 Federal District Court Final Decision where the Federal Court agreed with the federal defendant's position and a faction of the Ione Band's testimony that the Ione Band was not recognized and had never been recognized prior to 1992 and intervenor Ione Band failed to address any of the merits of the motion. He then ordered NCIP/CERA to file a motion for summary judgment. That motion for summary judgment filed on October 14th is based on the same 1992 Federal District Court Order and 1996 Final Decision.

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UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES?

By Judy Bachmann



Sometimes the wisdom that comes with age and experience is summarily dismissed as being out of touch. However, that wisdom if adhered to could forego some of the unintended consequences that often follow a hurried decision. Perhaps if the board of legislators had listened to some of the “old people who need to get a life”, the “fear mongers” and the “Yahoos” instead of yielding to political pressure the so called unintended consequences (one definition of which is a perverse effect contrary to what was originally intended, when an intended solution makes a problem worse) that the Counties are beginning to experience could have been avoided.

Tourism and related components have an annual impact of more than \$1 billion on Oneida County. The bed tax levy amounts to \$2 on a \$100-a-night stay--not including the 8.75 percent sales tax. The 2 percent bed tax is the main funding vehicle for Oneida County Tourism. Their budget for the year is approximately \$900,000. The settlement took effect in March and Kelly Blazosky, head of the county tourism says she expects the settlement will cost Oneida County Tourism about \$300,000 annually going forward. Will the county be expected to make up the difference from the so called “settlement money” and the tourism board continue to promote the Oneida Enterprises?

Also with regard to the “settlement money” the Rome Sentinel reports that County Executive Anthony J. Picente Jr. is requesting the Board of Legislators approve taking \$50,000 for casino settlement money for the Verona fire district. Following enactment of the settlement earlier this year, the Oneida Indian Nation announced it would no longer pay the district \$100,000 a year terminating a long standing-practice. The \$100,000 helped pay the Verona Fire District for the cost of an expensive ladder truck necessary only for the Turning Stone Tower. The Oneidas did pay \$50,000 this

year before ending the agreement and breaking their contract with the fire dept. No additional payments will be made this year or in the future yet the Verona Fire Department under federal law must continue to “protect” the Oneida properties even though NO LAND TAXES ARE PAID. In the years 2000 through 2014 the combined yearly payments the Oneidas received from our federal tax dollars totaled **\$57,102,431**. (verified from the Government Accounting Audits) As far as can be found the “settlement agreement” does not eliminate this yearly payment from the Federal Government.

If it wasn't so tragic it would be funny to hear The County Executive state that he will not do business with the towns of Vernon and Verona because they are suing the County. The Utica Newspaper Editorial Staff actually endorsed his statement. The entire “settlement agreement” is between the County and The State and the Oneida Tribe. The tribe that has been suing the county and the state for the land, while disregarding all of the laws and environmental structure for the past 40 years and at the time of the “settlement agreement” was still after possessory jurisdiction over the lands in Oneida and Madison County. However, the county claims that they agreed to this situation in the settlement agreement which has turned the county against the towns. Another unintended consequence?

Also reported in the Rome Sentinel is the proposal by Public Works Commissioner Dennis Davis who trimmed his request for **heavy-duty equipment purchases** next year to \$885,000. Three snowplows would now be bought with cash this year, thanks to the infusion of casino money. The plows will cost an estimated \$630,000. Would the \$630,000 expenditure be necessary if the County wasn't eliminating the plowing contracts with Vernon and Verona? One cannot help but wonder if the county will also need to employ additional personnel to handle the county roads in the towns of Vernon and Verona.

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Gresham, WI 54128

We need your support!

It is understood that the Stanley Theater is requesting **increased** amounts of money from the county this year because they are unable to compete with the draw of the shows at the Turning Stone. Interesting!

Recently, in Madison County a new tribal gas station was opened. The Mayor of Chittenango is reported to say the new gas station is a great deal as the village will be able to buy gas at a two cent per gallon discount. Let's see, 2 cents a gallon in exchange for NO PROPERTY TAX, NO REMITTANCE OF SALES TAX, CIGARETTE TAX, THE TAX ON THE SALE OF BEER AND NO GASOLINE TAX REMITTED TO OFFSET THE COST OF STATE ROAD AND BRIDGE REPAIR as well as the fact that the tax paying stations will no longer get the village's business. Is this really a win for the tax paying residents of Chittenango?

Also in Chittenango, a strip mall that Mr. Halbritter has owned as North Atlantic Development, a company under the umbrella of Oneida Indian Nation Enterprises is now being transferred directly to the tribe. The businesses currently renting have been instructed to collect the 8.75% sales tax and remit it to the tribe instead of remitting it to the state. According to a recent release by NYSACS (New York State Association of Convenience Stores) *"The 2013 settlement agreement says that, to the extent the state and counties impose a sales tax, the SavOn stores shall impose an equivalent sales tax, called a "Nation Sales Tax," at the same rate as such state and/or local tax, on their sales to non-Indians. But instead of remitting the revenue to the State and Counties, they'll keep it. However, under the state Tax Law, if the New York State sales tax on beer is not collected and remitted by the tribal store, the purchaser is liable for paying the sales tax amount due directly to the tax Department. Doesn't that subject non-Indian purchasers to double taxation? Will the state of New York begin requiring taxpayers to enter on their state tax returns the amount of sales tax the state is due just like they require if you buy online or out of state?"*

A 6 page agreement between the County Sheriff and the tribal police force was voted on as part of the "settlement agreement". It was later reported however, that additional negotiations were taking place.

Does anyone actually know the status of this agreement or if it agrees to allow tribal police to arrest non-tribal members anywhere in Oneida County and if the agreement makes the non-tribal persons answerable to tribal court? This kind of unintended consequence is already happening in other parts of the country. Is it coming to Oneida and Madison Counties? Federal territory reclassifies our land status and brings all kinds of new issues into our lives including the reclassification of our rights as citizens.

The most recent news is that the county executive and the tribal leader are unhappy about the possibility of a casino in TYRE, NY. When the map of the settlement is actually examined it indicates that the location is NOT inside one of the 10 counties included in the original exclusivity zone. Why should there be surprise and a statement that this was not anticipated? The potential of competition reducing the funds to be received brings to mind the idea that the payment from the "settlement agreement" is based on a percentage of an unknown amount rather than a set figure. If that unknown amount is reduced by competition (as was predicted by many) the percentage of it will of course be smaller. Right now the Oneida Enterprises acknowledges \$200,000,000 in profits from the slot machines alone. If they forward one quarter of that to the state it still leaves them with \$150,000,000. Out of that it is understood that each enrolled tribal member gets \$16,000 each year. One can only ask where the balance of \$134,000,000 goes in addition to the other taxes collected and not remitted. It is no wonder that there are funds to influence elections, make donations to museums and chase the Washington Redskins.

The "settlement agreement" was sold as ending all litigation. Unfortunately once again that was wrong. Instead of ending litigation, it has fostered more. The Counties legislatures voted to pull their case and relinquished their right to defend themselves, leaving them at the mercy of the state and arbitration. The settlement also attempts to reverse settled law by acknowledging and re-establishing

the land claim after 40 years of litigation ended in favor of the county and state. At the time of the settlement the tribe was still seeking possessory title to the land. When the state and county's pulled their case before the Supreme Court of the United States it left the issue wide open once again. It is no wonder that the towns of Vernon and Verona felt the need to sue to protect their constituents. The ruling of Federal Judge Kahn said that they have that right and that the Department of Interior (DOI) is not a party to the settlement. The fee to trust issue is being handled by the regional office of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) not the DOI. Judge Kahn ruled that the cases challenging the fee to trust are still open, the DOI has acknowledged that we have six years to overturn any land converted from fee to trust and Judge Kahn has retained jurisdiction to overturn any trust land taken illegally.

Unfortunately these issues are only the beginning of what will be labeled unintended consequences. Perhaps if some of the concerns presented to the governing bodies of Oneida and Madison Counties had been carefully examined instead of disregarded these and the many more "unforeseen consequences" could have been avoided. One can only ask, are they really unintended consequences or the result of neglect of elected responsibility to become informed before voting on an issue.

Update from California continued...

It will be interesting to see how the federal defendants and the intervenor Ione Band respond to the merits of a motion based on a prior Federal District Court decision that the Ione Band had never been recognized which was not appealed. It will likely be early next year before we receive a decision on the motion. NCIP and CERA remain confident that if the facts of our case are heard and judged according to the law there will be No Casino in Plymouth and the Ione Band will never be able to submit another fee to trust application for a casino.

Federal Indian Policy is unaccountable, destructive, racist, and unconstitutional. It is, therefore CERF and CERA's mission to ensure the equal protection of the law as guaranteed to all citizens by the Constitution of the United States.

To the Editor continued...

The towns of Verona and Vernon will continue to protect our rights as decided by the federal courts. We will continue to fight for a voice for our taxpayers. Our towns may have become expendable--just dry up and blow away with the wind--in the eyes of our national and state and county governments, but we feel we have an important responsibility to the future of our communities--those to whom we are accountable.

Town of Verona
Owen Waller, Supervisor

Town Council:
Ken Regner
Scott Musacchio
Ken Brewer
Fritz Scherz

Town of Vernon
Myron Thurston, Supervisor

Town Council:
Michael McDonough
J. Randall Watson
Eugene Bennati
Steve Adamkowski

The Constitution Simplified continued...

established in that document. Even though the Department of Interior, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Justice conduct themselves as being separate and apart from the checks and balances of our constitutional protection they are actually federal bureaucracies of the Executive Branch of the federal government. After that meeting CERA board members went to work to establish such a graphic. This graphic is now included in our handbook, a printed handout for our educational seminars and we recently had it blown up to the 2'x4' size for presentations at community events and local fairs. The founders of our country set up checks and balances that work to protect the citizens of the United States. It is sad to see the attempts at circumventing those checks and balances and the lack of understanding on the part of our citizenry. Your dues and donations help us in our endeavors to promote better understanding of this amazing document given us over 200 years ago.

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CERA SUPPORTS MASSACHUSETTS REPEAL THE DEAL VOTE

By Carol Kelley



Citizens Equal Rights Alliance supports the Massachusetts “Repeal the Deal” initiative and has urged Massachusetts voters to vote “Yes” on question 3 on the ballot this November 4th. John Ribeiro, Chair of RTD, was keynote speaker at the 2014 CERA conference held in Taunton, MA. He outlined the process which he had to follow in order to get the initiative on the November ballot. The Repeal the Deal committee has worked tirelessly educating the voters on the negative impacts of having a casino in their community. Repeal the Casino Deal is a non-partisan citizen-driven, statewide collection of concerned residents, taxpayers, community leaders, and organizations from across the political spectrum who are opposed to the 2011 casino law. The legislation, passed on November 22, 2011, would allow for one casino in three different regions across Massachusetts, with one additional license for a slots parlor.

Casinos have fought for decades to enter Massachusetts. The 2011 law ultimately opened the door for them to do so. A week after the law was passed, casino opponents began organizing a ballot initiative to allow all Massachusetts voters the opportunity to have their voices heard. By November 2013, Repeal the Casino Deal was able to gather more than 70,000 valid signatures certified by the Secretary of State. The Attorney General refused to certify the ballot initiative. Repeal the Casino Deal, undeterred, took the case to the Supreme Judicial Court (SJC). On June 24, 2014, the SJC ruled that the question could be placed on the November 4 ballot. Repeal the Casino Deal remained committed to informing voters state wide about the negative consequences of casino gambling on communities, and the mess that has followed casinos into communities and states around the nation. There grass roots efforts-in neighborhoods, communities, and in the Supreme Judicial Courts-has prepared them to continue and expand their outreach through Election day. CERA wishes them success in their endeavor.

Planning for your year end giving.

While we have made progress regarding Federal Indian Policy it is doubtful that there will be a “quick fix” in the near future. For that reason, the funding requirements for our efforts will go well into the future.

You can be part of that funding by considering Citizens Equal Rights Foundation (CERF) in your year-end giving.

A check would be very much appreciated, but instead you might consider a gift of appreciated stock.

Since 2008 and early 2009 the S&P 500 has gained well over 100%. Investors who bought individual stocks during that period are likely to own shares that have increased significantly in value. Appreciated shares purchased and held at least one year are often ideal candidates for charitable giving.

Donations to Citizens Equal Rights Foundation (CERF) may be deducted on your federal income tax return as itemized deductions. When gifting appreciated stock held one year or more, the deduction can equal the stocks fair market value on the date of the gift. And although the donated shares increased in value, you pay no tax on the capital gain.

Tax laws change, so explore how you might take advantage of stock gifts. Also, when donating stock to us, please let us know in advance to ensure a prompt and accurate transfer of your gift. For inquiries contact CERF treasurer, Curt Knoke. cknoke@frontiernet.net or (715)787-4601.

Important! Please Read!

Please make your check out to CERA (no tax deduction), OR to CERF (if you would like a tax deduction), OR if you would like us to decide where your donation could best be used, you can make it out to CERAorCERF. To avoid confusion, we kindly ask that you do not make your check out to CERA/CERF or to CERA-CERF. Please help us make our bank, the Internal Revenue Service and our treasurer happy!

Federal Indian policy in unaccountable, destructive, racist and unconstitutional. It is therefore CERF and CERA's mission to ensure the equal protection of the law as guaranteed to all citizens by the Constitution of the United States

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