

Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Joins Governor, Six Other Tribes in Pledging No Additional Casinos in Phoenix Metro Area

PHOENIX, Arizona (Nov. 21, 2016) – The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community (SRPMIC) joined Governor Doug Ducey and six other Arizona tribal communities today in signing an amendment to the Tribal-State Gaming Compact to strengthen our longstanding pledge to build no additional casinos in the Phoenix metropolitan area.

In addition to SRPMIC, the Gila River Indian Community, Navajo Nation, Hualapai Tribe, Havasupai Tribe, Tonto Apache Tribe, and the White Mountain Apache Tribe signed the amendment.

“Today we reaffirm the promise we made 15 years ago that Indian gaming would be limited, well-regulated and there would be no additional casinos in the Phoenix metropolitan area,” **said Delbert W. Ray, Sr., President of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.** “I commend Governor Ducey for building on both the legacy of previous Arizona leaders and the incredible success of the 2002 tribal gaming compact. It has created upwards of 15,000 jobs, driven significant economic development, and contributed to making Arizona’s education and health care systems stronger.”

President Ray continued, “It is my hope that, with Governor Ducey’s continued leadership, all tribes will be willing to consider signing this agreement to fulfill the promises that were made to other tribes, Arizona’s elected leadership, and the people of Arizona so many years ago. It’s not only the right thing to do, but it’s a critical part in healing the wounds that have been open for so long.”

The amendment to the compact addresses the questions surrounding the Tohono O’odham’s decision to open a Glendale casino and prevents further erosion of the original intent of the 2002 Tribal-State Gaming Compact. It precludes tribal communities from operating any additional facilities in the Phoenix metropolitan area. However, it states that the Tohono O’odham Nation may continue to operate their facility in Glendale.

While the amendments to the compact serve as an important reaffirmation of tribal commitments made in 2002, SRPMIC will continue support efforts, such as the Keep the Promise Act, to make the pledges made today enforceable. Both the compact amendments and the Keep the Promise Act will strengthen the existing Tribal-State Gaming Compact and preserve the tremendous benefits that tribal gaming has brought to all Arizonans.