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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### NCLGS TO PROBE UNDERLYING AUTHORITY RE TRIBAL GAMING

**Cooper City, Florida, May 7, 2007**— While state and federal officials and tribes and localities continue to spar over who ultimately has authority to decide off-reservation gaming and to regulate Class III tribal gaming, the National Council of Legislators from Gaming States (NCLGS) this summer will bring together top Indian gaming authorities in hopes of clearing the increasingly muddied waters. The NCLGS Meeting, scheduled for June 8 through 10 in Las Vegas, Nevada, will provide an arena for a balanced public policy debate on these highly controversial Indian gaming issues.

A panel discussion entitled *Off-Reservation Gaming Guidelines: A Gamble for Tribes?* to be held on Friday, June 8, will shed light on questions such as

- Should the Department of the Interior (DOI) and governors or tribes and localities in independent agreements decide on tribal gaming on non-reservation lands?
- Should legislators exercise more authority?
- Must tribes provide a historical connection to proposed off-reservation land?
- What will be the outcome of proposed new Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA) guidelines?
- What is the prognosis for tribes with pending federal off-reservation applications?
- Should established gaming operations have any precedence over emerging tribal operations?

NCLGS President Sen. Steven Geller (FL), in announcing the panel, said “This debate will continue to heat up as tribes look to expand their ventures; as formerly unacknowledged tribes look for recognition; as established tribal gaming operations seek precedence over emerging ones; as Congressional initiatives emerge; and as states look for budget enhancements. NCLGS, a group of legislators charged with developing sound public policy regarding gaming, seeks resolution to some very real questions that continue to remain unanswered.”

Expert panelists include

- Assemblymember Sam Hoyt, Chair, Committee on Local Governments, New York State Assembly
- Mark Van Norman, executive director, National Indian Gaming Association
- George Skibine, director, Office of Indian Gaming, Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Daren Marquez, former chairman, San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians
- Howard Dickstein, general counsel, California Tribal Business Alliance
- Lana Oleen, Oleen Consulting Services, LLC

At a NCLGS State-Federal Relations Committee meeting on Friday, June 8, Legislators, regulators and tribal gaming experts will focus on tribal push-backs from hotly disputed National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC) Minimum Internal Control Standards (MICS). The MICS would distinguish criteria for Class II and Class III gaming devices in tribal casinos. This clarification would make necessary reevaluation of tribal casino gaming authority—as Class III devices require the authority of a compact and Class II do not.

Also at the Committee meeting, NCLGS will reexamine its tribal-state informational checklist to ensure that essential components of tribal-state compact negotiations are updated to reflect the current climate.

Amid tribal protests and national pressure last year, the DOI promised to clarify contested IGRA Section 20 two-part off-reservation guidelines. Proposed new guidelines heightened the controversy—as federal initiatives to restrict “reservation shopping” emerged in the last Congressional session. Tribes across the country are treading water, waiting approval to launch new casinos.

NCLGS is the only organization of its kind where legislators can hear all sides of a gaming issue in an unbiased format. NCLGS is neither pro- nor anti-gaming. NCLGS is a proactive participant in the development of public policy related to state authorized gaming. NCLGS exists to educate state legislators and other policymakers on issues dealing with gaming; seeks appropriate regulation of gaming; and works to preserve the traditional rights of the states to regulate and tax gaming within their borders.

Attached, for your information is a Summer Meeting brochure.

For more information, please call the NCLGS National Office at (518) 687-0615 or access the NCLGS website at [www.nclgs.org](http://www.nclgs.org).

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