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TRIBAL CASINO LABOR PRACTICES UP FOR SCRUTINY AT NCLGS WINTER MEETING

Dover, Delaware, December 14, 2007—Should a recent federal appeals court decision ruling that labor laws can apply to Indian tribes be allowed to ignore thirty years of precedent and contradict numerous Supreme Court rulings? Can it preempt state rulings and tribal-state gaming compacts? Can tribes properly regulate their casino employees or must they rewrite their labor laws to comply with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB)? Should legislatures have a say?

In January, representatives of key stakeholders in the very controversial and often heated debate will meet at the National Council of Legislators from Gaming States (NCLGS) Winter Meeting to speak to tribal labor practices. The NCLGS Winter Meeting is scheduled to be held at the Hotel Valley Ho in Scottsdale, Arizona, from January 4 through 6, 2008.

At a January 5 panel discussion, entitled *Tribal Sovereignty & Labor Laws: What Precedent Will Rule?*, national experts will debate and dispute the role of the courts, tribal and state governments, labor unions, and gaming compacts in the regulation of tribal casino labor practices. Panel experts will include:

- Mark Van Norman, Executive Director, National Indian Gaming Association
- Alice Garfield, General Counsel, National Labor Relations Board, Region 31
- Richard McCracken, International Counsel, UNITE HERE
- John Guevremont, Director of National Governmental Affairs, Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation

NCLGS President Rep. William Oberle (DE), in announcing the general session, said: “State legislators—who are also stakeholders in this issue, as they are responsible for the welfare of those who reside within their jurisdictions—want to hear all perspectives on who has the authority to determine what labor practices are used in tribal casinos and which of the battling precedents should justly prevail.”

The NCLGS Winter Meeting will also spotlight, among other things, dialogue on fallout from the Internet Gambling Regulation Act of 2007; gambling expansion and off-reservation gaming initiative; National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC) published rules clarifying Class II and Class III tribal gaming, and a NCLGS tribal-state compact informational checklist.

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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 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.

For more information, please call the NCLGS National Office at (518) 687-0615 or access the NCLGS Web site at www.nclgs.org.