



MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WAMPSVILLE, NEW YORK
January 10, 2006

Madison County is in receipt of a copy of a letter (attached) apparently sent January 6 by Oneida Nation representative Ray Halbritter to Oneida' vendors requiring their active support in this week's hearings or face the termination of their business relationship.

He raises the threat of foreclosure, this based on the false premise that "local politicians" seek to take the Oneida property, conveniently forgetting that the decision not to pay the property taxes--confirmed by the United States Supreme Court to be due--was Mr. Halbritter's, not the "local politicians". He also fails to acknowledge that those "local politicians" continue to urge payment of those taxes which represent the Oneidas' fair share of the maintenance and support of public infrastructure. If this fair share is paid, local government would no longer be obliged to continue foreclosure proceedings.

Similarly misleading is the ridiculous contention that support of their application to take over 17,000 checker-boarded acres (impacting 22 cities, towns, villages and school districts) in trust and away from State and local jurisdiction is essential to maintaining the jobs at Turning Stone--particularly given the casino property comprises less than 200 acres, in one town.

He also neglects in his letter to mention the 10's of millions of dollars of tax free profits he and his enterprise reap, while all of the infrastructure to bring his patrons to his door are paid for by the average tax paying citizens.

We anticipate more misleading and contrived actions and statements will accompany a staged "media event" being planned for these hearings and urge that the communications and concerns of the average citizens and their representatives be permitted to be heard.

ONEIDA INDIAN NATION



ONEIDA NATION HOMELANDS

January 6, 2006

Dear Business Partner:

It has been the pleasure of the Oneida Indian Nation to do business with you. In fact, the Nation spends more than \$140 million per year on vendors, suppliers and other businesses in our community every year. We take special pride in our role of helping to grow the Central New York economy.

Due to a Supreme Court ruling and desire of local politicians to foreclose on our properties, our ability to continue doing business with you is in jeopardy. If the politicians prevail in seizing the Nation's lands in foreclosure proceedings, the losses to our local community will be devastating: 4,500 Oneida Indian Nation employees will be without jobs, and countless Central New York businesses -- including your business -- will lose all of its sales and revenues from the Nation.

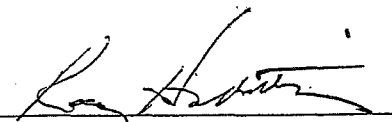
Without land, we cannot conduct our business with you or anybody else. When the politicians threaten the Oneida Indian Nation, they are threatening you and your business too.

This problem can be solved if the Nation's land is put into federal trust, just as the Supreme Court said to do in its ruling. This will allow us to continue and grow our business and to maintain our \$100 million payroll, from which our employees pay more than \$35 million in taxes. And it will allow us to continue doing business with you.

We have applied to put the Nation's land into trust to save these business opportunities. The U.S. Department of Interior is holding meetings to take public comment. These hearings will take place at 6:30 p.m. on January 10 (Vernon-Verona-Sherrill High School) and January 11 (Oneida City High School). We feel it critical that the government hear from you, as a vendor, about what our business means to you and the economy of the area.

We look forward to your commitment to participate as we want to continue to do business with you. Look forward to seeing you there.

Na ki? wa,



Ray Halbritter
Nation Representative

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