



**Finance Revenue and Bonding Committee  
Public Hearing April 15, 2015**

**HB 7054 An Act Concerning Keno**

Senator Fonfara, Representative Berger and honorable members of the Finance Revenue and Bonding Committee. My name is Charles Bunnell, Chief of Staff of External Affairs for the Mohegan Tribe.

The Mohegan Tribe is one of the two federally recognized tribes in Connecticut. I am offering testimony on the committee's bill that would allow the Connecticut Lottery Corporation to operate Keno in Connecticut.

Let me first state how important our government- to- government relationship with the state is to the Mohegan Tribe and affirm their desire to work collaboratively. Our desire would be to find a path that helps and protects everyone.

We appreciate that the bill the committee has drafted contemplates once again the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, on behalf of the state of Connecticut, will enter into separate agreements with the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe and the Mohegan Tribe concerning the operation of keno by the Connecticut Lottery Corporation. Additionally it adopts language that was in Public Act 13-184 that allowed the both Tribes to reach an agreement with the state to address the concerns that the introduction of keno would violate the memorandum of understanding that provides a 25% gross on video lottery terminals operated by both tribes on our reservation.

In reading the bill there are some significant changes to the language adopted in Public Act 13-184 that raises some deep concern for our tribe. Specifically the definition of Keno has changed to something too loosely defined to be acceptable. It no longer requires play slips for the operation of keno, and may allow for a fully electronic Keno, in addition language has been removed that prevents on-line lottery. Some may find these small changes to be insignificant but in this instance words do matter greatly and we wanted to raise these concerns as the committee deliberates on this bill.

We stand ready to work with this committee and the state of Connecticut as we have in the past but we want to make sure it is done in a way that does not impact the revenue sharing agreement that has been in place with the state for over twenty years.

Thank you for your time and we look forward to working with you.

**THE MOHEGAN TRIBE**