



Mashantucket Pequot  
Tribal Nation

# MASHANTUCKET PEQUOT TRIBAL NATION PRESENTATION

November 14, 2023



## MASHANTUCKET PEQUOT TRIBAL NATION'S RECENT HISTORY TO ESTABLISH RECOGNITION TRUST LANDS AND GAMING IN CONNECTICUT

- MPTN brought land claims suit in 1976 challenging illegal sale of tribal lands by state in violation of federal law (Mohegan Tribe brought same type of suit)
- MPTN negotiated a settlement with landowners and the State that resulted in the Mashantucket Pequot Settlement Act (1983) resolving land claims
- **Bingo Case (1986)**
- **Indian Gaming Regulatory Act – good faith bargaining suit (1990)**
- **Gaming procedures (1991)**
- **Slots Memorandum of Understanding (1993)**
- **Mohegan Tribe gains federal recognition in 1994, enters gaming compact and Slot MOU, settlement agreements**



## TWO SEPARATE ISSUES

### DUAL TAXATION v. AMENDING SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

Proposed Legislation to Exempt from Property Tax *Non-Indian Personal Property on Trust Lands Does Not Impact Mohegan's Agreements with Town or State*

- Neither State nor Montville Agreement address **Non-Indian Personal Property**
- State Agreement addresses Tribal Trust lands, not personal property
- Montville Agreement specifically addresses: “**tribally owned motor vehicles and personal property**”
- No basis for Montville to bring suit if State enacts an exemption for Non-Indian Personal Property on trust lands



# FINANCIAL IMPACT TO LEDYARD NOT SUPPORTED BY THE NUMBERS

## **EDUCATION: Incorrect Comparison to Cost to Educate – No Ledyard taxpayer paying the cost to educate children**

- Approximately 84 school-aged children living on Trust/Restricted Fee lands that attend Ledyard Schools
  - Ledyard receives impact aid from Federal government of approximately \$5,400 per pupil per year (\$453,600 annually)
  - Ledyard receives PILOT payments from State of about \$1,000,994 (mostly based on trust lands)
  - Ledyard receives \$1,391,000 from MPTN/Mohegan Fund
  - MPTN pays \$447,265 in property taxes to Ledyard for Two Trees (with no associated children in school)
- Approximately 67 school-aged children live on tribally or member owned Fee Lands in Ledyard, attend Ledyard Schools and pay taxes to Ledyard as any other resident (Tribe pays \$329,808 for these fee properties in Ledyard)

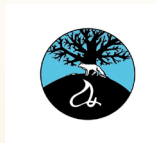


# FINANCIAL IMPACT TO LEDYARD NOT SUPPORTED BY THE NUMBERS

## ROADS:

In last 10 years, the MPTN has spent over \$1 million in road work and improvements on Town roads and bridges

Year	Name of Road	Cost	Comments
2013	Lantern Hill North	\$615,000	Replaced culvert across road and paved road
2014	Shewville Road Bridge	\$362,000	Partnered with Ledyard to replace bridge on Shewville Road. Mashantucket Pequot Tribe managed the entire project.
2015	Coachman Pike Repave	\$192,000	Redid drainage and storm piping, new catch basin tops, and repaved the road
2023	Jessica Lane	\$50,000	Mashantucket Pequot Tribe agreed to spend a NTE \$50,000 in assisting Ledyard pay to repave the road



# FINANCIAL IMPACT TO LEDYARD NOT SUPPORTED BY THE NUMBERS

## PUBLIC SAFETY - POLICING

- MPTN entered an MOU with State in August 2014 for on Reservation policing allowing the Tribal police to be the primary police force on Reservation
- Ledyard opted to move from a State Resident Trooper model to a full municipal police force in 2016
- The major roads to Foxwoods, the Museum, Lake of Isles, Two Trees Hotel (Route 2 and Route 214) are State, not Town, roads with the State Police patrolling Route 2
- No different than if Hartford had a development that impacts East Hartford or West Hartford – those towns cannot reach into Hartford to tax



# WORK GROUP REPORT

- PA 23-204, Sec. 359 requires the work group to submit a report to General Assembly by January 1, 2024 with recommendations
- MPTN endorses a Work Group recommendation to enact a tax exemption (add to C.G.S. Sec. 12-81) for “non-Indian owned personal property located on lands held in trust by the United States for the benefit of a federally recognized Indian tribe”
  - Recognizes tribal sovereignty and equitable tax policy
  - Treats both federally recognized tribes equally
  - No impact on Mohegan Tribe’s agreements with State and Town which do not address non-Indian personal property
- MPTN supports Mohegan Tribe’s efforts to revisit settlement agreements as a separate issue not linked to or dependent on the personal property exemption