



Seneca Nation of Indians

Zogby Poll Finds Strong Support for Seneca Enterprises *Likely voters in WNY overwhelmingly back Nation retail, gaming businesses*

SENECA NATION, ALLEGANY TERRITORY, Sept. 10, 2008 – Eight of 10 likely voters in four Western New York counties agree that Seneca Nation of Indians’ gaming and entertainment facilities mean steady new jobs and economic development, and nearly two-thirds think Nation businesses improve the region’s quality of life, according to a new poll by Zogby International. The poll also determined that a wide majority of those questioned statewide believe that attempts by the New York State Legislature to impose taxes on the sale of tax-free tobacco by Indian retailers does not honor treaties between Indian nations and the U.S. government.

The four counties where people strongly support Seneca Nation enterprises are Erie, Niagara, Chautauqua and Cattaraugus. Of those polled statewide, 84 percent are non-smokers.

“We have long enjoyed respectful and neighborly relationships with the taxpayers of Western New York,” said Maurice A. John Sr., president of the Seneca Nation of Indians. “The Seneca Nation is part of this region and this poll shows it’s appreciated and understood that our retailing and casino gaming sectors drive our \$1.1 billion economy, which supports the jobs of 6,300 people in this region.”

The Nation urged Gov. David Paterson to veto a bill that would tax suppliers. The Zogby poll found that 46 percent of New Yorkers support vetoing it, and 46 percent support signing it.

“The poll makes clear that Gov. Paterson won’t be hurt politically if he vetoes this bill,” President John said, “so, for him, the primary choice comes down to doing what’s right, for two reasons. First, he espouses universal principles that he said the state’s leaders and people should follow. Second, he appreciates and understands the crucial economic growth our Nation offers to a state that is always looking for more upstate vitality. This poll of voters reinforces both those reasons.”

For more: http://www.buffalorising.com/story/seneca_zogby_poll