



Poarch Band of Creek Indians

For Immediate Release

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Attorney General Troy King Forces Alabama Into Frivolous Lawsuit with U.S. Department of the Interior After it Rules in Favor of State Tribe

POARCH CREEK INDIAN RESERVATION, Poarch, Alabama – April 10, 2008 – In football, a great defense may be a great offense, but in the case of Alabama's Attorney General, trying to convince Alabama that he is defending the State by offending our intelligence will just not work.

For some time, the Poarch Band of Creek Indians have asked that it be allowed to operate the same kind of electronic bingo games that wealthy racetrack owners operate in other parts of the State. Unlike those racetrack owners, the Poarch Band actually asked for permission from the appropriate federal entities to operate the games instead of charging ahead and then expecting to be forgiven or ignored.

The Bush Administration's Department of the Interior, which oversees all Indian gaming operations, heard the Poarch Band requests and, in a preliminary decision after all parties were provided the opportunity to comment, announced that the Tribe should be allowed to do what other businesses in Alabama were being allowed to do - operate the same electronic bingo games and pari-mutuel wagering.

What the preliminary decision also did was call King on his penchant for selectively applied justice. But instead of realizing the clock had run out on his game of hypocrisy, King is trying to confuse the issue. He is telling Alabamians the preliminary decision is expanding gaming in the state. In fact, the preliminary decision **limits** and defines what games can be played in the state by the Poarch Band of Creek Indians on their sovereign land. These games are the same games currently being played at competing facilities that our Attorney General Troy King has visited and approved for years. As other wealthy businessmen continuously attempt to expand gaming to the metropolitan areas across the State, how does King define expansion?

The Department of the Interior saw through King's attempt to choose the interests of wealthy racetrack owners over an Indian Tribe that contributes millions of dollars to the state in taxes, creates hundreds of jobs, and makes significant charitable donations to the surrounding

communities. Once again, the State is unwilling to sit down with the Poarch Band of Creek Indians and the Department of Interior to play the game fairly.

Now our Mr. King has made one last attempt to save face and a losing argument by suing the federal government. This lawsuit is a Hail Mary pass thrown after the game has been called. Someone should tell King that fair play has won and it is time for him to take his ball and go home.

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