

# SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA

**MARCELLUS OSCEOLA, JR.**  
**Chairman**

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*Tribal Officers:*  
**MITCHELL CYPRESS**  
*Vice-Chairman*  
**LAVONNE ROSE**  
*Secretary*  
**PETER HAHN**  
*Treasurer*

May 14, 2019

Via Hand Delivery

Governor Ron DeSantis  
Office of the Governor  
State of Florida  
400 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Re: **Compact Negotiations and Revenue Share Payments**

Dear Governor DeSantis:

On behalf of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, I would like to thank you for taking the time to meet with representatives of the Tribe to discuss the details of a proposed new gaming compact and related legislation that were developed through extensive discussions with Senate leadership. As you know, the Tribe and the State have engaged in numerous rounds of negotiations to resolve a number of important issues, including a mechanism to shut down the illegal banked card games that were the subject of Judge Robert Hinkle's decision in November 2016.

Based on that decision, the Tribe could have stopped all revenue share payments to the State. However, the Tribe agreed to continue making payments for the last two years to give the State time to shut down the illegal games through "aggressive enforcement action." Unfortunately, there has not been aggressive enforcement action against those games, which have expanded since Judge Hinkle's decision.

The Tribe believes that the compact and related legislation developed with Senate leadership would have resolved this issue and been mutually beneficial to the State and the Tribe. However, the Tribe respects your desire to take more time to review the issues and to resume discussions this summer. In the meantime, the Tribe will follow its agreement with the State and suspend its revenue share payments until the illegal banked card game issue is resolved.

The Tribe looks forward to resuming discussions with you this summer and reaching an agreement that will allow the Tribe to resume its revenue share payments as quickly as possible. The Tribe and the State have enjoyed a good relationship and we are hopeful that we will be able to reach an agreement that will strengthen that relationship for many years to come.

**"BUT I HAVE PROMISES TO KEEP & MILES TO GO BEFORE I SLEEP"**



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Sho Na Bish,

Marcellus Osceola, Jr.  
Chairman of the Tribal Council,

cc: Bill Galvano, Senate President  
Jose Oliva, House Speaker  
Joe Jacquot, Esq.  
Jim Shore, Esq.

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