

*Washington, DC - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today released the following statement in response to the U.S. Department of Interior's rejection of the casino proposals by the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe and Stockbridge Munsee Tribe.*

"The decision by the Department of Interior today to deny the casino proposals for Sullivan County by the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe and Stockbridge Munsee Tribe does not come as any surprise. Based on the longtime opposition by the Secretary of Interior to off-reservation Indian casino gaming, stretching back to his tenure as Governor of Idaho, such a decision was frankly anticipated. From my conversations with the Secretary over the past year, as well as my discussion with him on this decision earlier this afternoon, it is clear that the next opportunity for these proposed casinos to move forward and be objectively evaluated will be under a new Administration by a different Secretary of the Interior, who under current law has the final determination in this matter at this time."