

BUFFALO, NY - Some State Lawmakers say they sat down with the Seneca Nation Council, and came up with their own solution on how direct casino proceeds should be paid. First they agreed to cut out the "Middle Man." New York State to be exact.

Members of the Seneca Nation Council joined Lawmakers Sunday afternoon, at the Seneca Buffalo Creek Casino to support proposed

Legislation that would authorize direct payments of Casino proceeds to local communities, where Casinos are located. Salamanca is one such place that heavily depends on casino revenue. In fact City Leaders there were forced to lay off dozens of city workers recently.

It was just two months ago when the Seneca Nation voted to withhold "Exclusivity Payments" to the State after repeated requests to meet with Governor David Paterson to discuss several critical issues went unanswered. Senator George Maziarz says it's time for Albany to start listening.

"The Governor has no business holding these dollars hostage from local municipalities and local non-for profit organizations, and I want to thank the Seneca Nation for at least being willing to compromise to say we'll give the localities their money up front because we know how badly they're hurting and then you know later on when the dispute is resolved we want that as a credit against the money that will be going to the state."

Salamanca Mayor Jeff Pond issued a statement "Thanking" The Senecas for taking this initiative to help Western New York Casino Host Communities. Meanwhile, Seneca Nation representatives say they are committed to working with State Leaders in creating a strong partnership.

Channel 2 News also reached out to Governor David Patterson's Office on Sunday, and were told no further comments will be made by his Office.

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