

Written by Administrator

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If the Aquinnah Wampanoag tribe seriously plans to build a casino on its reservation on Martha's Vineyard, and establishes that it has the right to do so, then the state should negotiate an agreement. But the tribe's real intentions are not nearly so clear. Earlier this month, the Aquinnah Wampanoag chairwoman, Cheryl Andrews-Maltais, unexpectedly announced that the tribe would convert an unfinished community center into a gambling hall, and open it within months. Days later, Andrews-Maltais lost her reelection bid to a rival who expressed no view on a reservation casino. Until the tribe has reached an internal consensus and put forward a serious plan, the state should stay on the sidelines.

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