



OSAGE NATION CONGRESS  
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MEMBERS OF CONGRESS  
ELI POTTS ~ JOE TILLMAN ~ JOHN MAKER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Joint Statement  
GAMING REVENUES STRONGER THAN ANTICIPATED AMIDST PANDEMIC  
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OSAGE NATION- Osage Casino revenues appear promising despite being closed for nearly two months. With an abundance of caution and in an attempt to slow the potential spread of COVID-19, the Osage Nation Gaming Enterprise Board closed all seven casinos on March 19, 2020. They reopened fifty-seven days later, on May 15<sup>th</sup>, and were quickly filled with guests who were eager to game in the comfort of social-distancing measures put in place by the Gaming Enterprise Board.

While the Nation took steps to prevent any loss of revenue by passing laws to allow access to the Osage Nation Permanent Fund, Casino Executives and Employees worked hard to restore operations to pre-COVID-19 levels. In June, Oklahoma Casinos paid \$2.8 million in exclusivity fees. In July, they contributed \$11.7 million- just shy of what was paid in July 2019.

Numbers were provided by the Oklahoma State Office of Management and Enterprise Services that reflect exclusivity payments on the rise compared to contributions in the same month last year.

In the months since reopening Osage Casinos have paid the following in exclusivity fees to the State of Oklahoma.

Month	2019	2020	Variance	Percent Increase
June	\$607,166	\$663,998	\$56,832	9.36%
July	\$631,606	\$677,643	\$46,037	7.29%
August	\$557,953	\$742,826	\$184,873	33.13%
September (To Date)	\$589,591	\$689,538	\$99,947	16.95%

\*OMES- As of 9/28/20

Contributions to the State of Oklahoma by way of exclusivity fee are a product of a percentage calculation based on total revenue of class two and class three gaming. These figures would indicate a strong economic outlook for Osage Casinos.

Matthew L. Morgan, chairman of the Oklahoma Indian Gaming Commission, has expressed enthusiasm about what July's numbers might mean for the remainder of 2020. "The number of \$11.7 million (received in July) surprised me, but I'm hopeful that's going to be indicative of a trend we see over the next coming months, as well," Morgan said. It appears the pandemic has not had the anticipated impact that was feared in the early months of March, April, and May of 2020. (The Oklahoman)

"We can only thank the casino employees and executive management for their hard work keeping guests, Osage citizens, and fellow employees safe and profitable during this pandemic" said Osage Congressman Tillman.

"I'm proud of the work our executive management and our casino employees have done to generate unexpected revenues and provide vital resources to the people of the Osage Nation. We must remain cautious and continue to do what we can to slow the potential spread of COVID-19, but we should also pause and be thankful that the leadership at Osage Casinos has been able to remain profitable and cause no direct financial impact to the Nation's revenue" said Congressman Potts

"I'm pleased to know that our gaming enterprise has not suffered the economic downturn feared by many. I am thankful for our casino employees and executive management for their brilliant stewardship and wish everyone good health and continued prosperity" said Congressman Maker

Joint Statement:

We remain in prayer for those impacted directly by COVID-19 and those who may be suffering during this time. We also feel the proposed cuts to the direct assistance and services of the Osage Nation government are premature and unnecessary. We are here to serve the People of the Osage Nation and now is not the time for the Osage Nation government to restrict funds or services when the data suggests cuts are unnecessary.

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