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SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA GAINS SUPPORT FROM POWERFUL BUSINESS GROUPS

*The Florida Chamber and Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association say
existing gaming compact provides economic boost to Florida*

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – In a [television ad](#) released by the [Seminole Tribe of Florida](#), [Mark Wilson](#), president and CEO of the Florida Chamber of Commerce, and [Carol Dover](#), president and CEO of the Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association, urge the state to extend the Seminole Gaming Compact.

Their endorsements are the focus of a [television ad](#) describing the Seminole Compact as a “partnership made in Florida that works for Florida.”

“Florida is changing, which is why we need to extend the Compact and limit gambling,” Wilson said. “Changing it could lead to the expansion of gambling, which simply is unacceptable for a state that has worked hard to grow its economy and develop a family-friendly image.”

The television ad is the second in a statewide campaign to raise public awareness about the benefits of the 20-year Seminole Compact, a portion of which expires in July 2015. The [first ad](#), which began airing in early March in Tallahassee, says the “historic Compact” has provided for controlled, profitable and safe gambling in Florida.

The state faces losing more than \$260 million a year from the Seminole Tribe if the Compact isn’t renewed or renegotiated. Extending the Compact saves more than 3,000 jobs and creates more than 15,000 jobs.

Over the last few decades, The Seminole Tribe has put more than 20,000 Floridians to work.

“Since the Seminole Compact went into effect, it has generated more than \$1 billion in state revenue for education, health care and veterans’ services,” said Dover. “We cannot afford to lose these vital dollars.”

Seminole Tribe officials praised Wilson and Dover for supporting a partnership with a proven track record of creating jobs and generating revenue for the state.

“These business leaders recognize the extensive contributions the Seminole Tribe has made on the state,” said Seminole Tribe of Florida Chairman James Billie. “We are proud of the strong partnership we have developed with the state and look forward to its continuation for the benefit of Florida and its citizens.”

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