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SPOKANE TRIBE – MEDIA STATEMENT

(Spokane, WA. April 18, 2017) A lawsuit has been filed against the U.S. Department of the Interior, by the Kalispel Tribe of Usk, WA., on April 12, 2017 in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Washington.

In response to the lawsuit, Spokane Tribal Council Chair, Carol Evans states: “The United States Department of Interior approved the Spokane Tribe’s new casino, located in the heart of our ancestral homeland, only after engaging in a rigorous, comprehensive ten-year review process. Governor Jay Inslee then concurred in Interior’s decision after a year-long review of the record and after meeting with key stakeholders. Simply put, Interior correctly administered the review process and ultimately made the right decision. We stand ready to assist the Department of Justice in defending against the Kalispel Tribe’s lawsuit, which boils down to an argument that the Government is somehow required to insulate Kalispel’s gaming monopoly against fair competition from us, the resident Tribe, despite our significant unmet needs.”

According to the Spokane Tribal Council: the Spokane Tribe is thankful for the final approval of the federal and state process called, Two-Part Determination. The approval of the STEP project has resulted in the creation of construction jobs and is providing a boost to the local economy through goods and services supporting the Spokane Tribe’s casino construction.

June 2016, the Interior Department determined that the Spokane Tribe Economic Project (STEP) “is in the best interest of the Spokane Tribe and its members and is not detrimental to the surrounding community.”

We encourage our neighbors to stay up-to-date with the Spokane Tribe Economic Project facts at: stepspokane.com.

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