

The U.S. Supreme Court is today hearing oral arguments on hearing a challenge from New Jersey to the federal law that restricts legalized betting on sports to Nevada. Many expect the Court will strike down the law, opening the door for all states to legalize sports betting. But Wisconsin will not be allowed to take advantage, thanks to language in the 2003 compact between former Governor Jim Doyle and the Potawatomi tribe.

The deal, which was harshly criticized by me and others at the time, includes language that states that if the state legalizes any additional gambling other than the current state lottery, that the Potawatomi must be paid all of the payments it has made to the state from the operation of its huge Milwaukee casino since 2003. Depending on when sports betting were legalized, that could amount to over \$400 million.

The language agreed to by Doyle states that if any new gambling is allowed by an entity other than a federally recognized tribe, Potawatomi would no longer have to make any payments to Wisconsin for its casino and would have all former payments refunded. That dollar amount would be so huge as to make sports betting legalization impractical.

What is possible, however, is that Potawatomi and the other tribes could offer sports betting. If the Supreme Court legalizes sports betting outside Nevada, Potawatomi could seek to amend its compact to include sports betting. The other state tribes could seek the same. Potawatomi and the other tribes are currently not allowed to offer sports betting, other than on horse and dog racing, because of the current federal law limiting such betting to Nevada.

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