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October 30, 2013

The Honorable Scott Walker  
Governor of Wisconsin  
State Capitol, 115 East Capitol  
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Governor Walker:

My name is Kurt Schmidt, and I am writing to encourage you to approve the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin's Kenosha casino proposal.

From 2009 to 2012, I served as Chief Financial Officer for Potawatomi Bingo Casino in Milwaukee. I fully understand the Milwaukee casino's operations, including its ability to withstand competition should a potential Kenosha casino disrupt its monopoly. Let me assure you that the possibility of a Kenosha casino has been very much on Potawatomi's radar screen for many, many years. The tribe has spent a great deal of time planning and strategizing against the Kenosha project, and has invested in significant and detailed economic research to determine the potential impacts of competition.

As someone who has developed, reviewed and analyzed page after page of economic data relating to Potawatomi Bingo Casino, I am surprised at Potawatomi's claims of major job and revenue losses should a Kenosha casino be approved. Those numbers are simply not right. They are significantly inflated and not backed up by any sort of legitimate economic data.

In reality, multiple market feasibility studies done for the Potawatomi place the impact of a Kenosha casino far closer to that identified by Bureau of Indian Affairs analysts – minimal, and easily overcome. For the Potawatomi to claim otherwise, and to then use those highly overstated figures along with their considerable political influence to urge you to reject the Kenosha casino and the possibility for 5,000+ new Wisconsin jobs, is inappropriate and not based in fact. Your decision should be based on what's right for the people and the state, not just on what's right for the Potawatomi.

I've read a great deal about your criteria for approving the Kenosha project, and as a Wisconsin native and one of your long-time supporters, I'm puzzled by it. It makes no sense to relinquish your authority as Governor to a single tribe, however powerful, that is simply trying to eliminate competition and keep its monopoly. It's especially disconcerting when that tribe is being less than accurate about its economic position, and when Wisconsin is in real danger of losing 5,000 good jobs, an \$800 million privately funded economic development project and millions of dollars in new, non-tax state revenue.

The Kenosha casino is a good deal for Southeastern Wisconsin and a good deal for the state. The Potawatomi will continue to thrive with it in place. Act for the people, not the Potawatomi. I respectfully ask that you look at the facts, look at Wisconsin's future and say yes to the Kenosha casino.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kurt Schmidt', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kurt Schmidt, CPA, MBA  
CEO, Blackbird Bend Corporation