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September 8, 2005

Alderman Michael S. D'Amato, Chair  
 Zoning, Neighborhoods & Development Committee  
 City of Milwaukee  
 200 E Wells Street, Room 201  
 Milwaukee, WI 53202

Re: Support of Potawatomi Bingo Casino Expansion in the Menomonee Valley

Dear Alderman D'Amato:

Journey House supports the expansion of Potawatomi Bingo Casino's \$240 million expansion in the Menomonee Valley. This expansion will provide significant economic impact for Milwaukee.

For decades, Potawatomi Bingo Casino has employed Milwaukee residents. During each expansion of the Casino, Milwaukee residents have gained more family-sustaining employment. Potawatomi Bingo Casino employs many parents of our Journey House youth members and parents who attend our Adult Learning Center to learn English, get a GED, and increase their employability skills. They are very proud to work at the Casino, which provides them (1) wages to support their families and (2) benefits including health insurance. A \$240 million Casino expansion will provide more jobs for Milwaukee residents, which will assist in growing our neighborhoods and vibrant city.

The Forest County Potawatomi Community Foundation is also one of the most generous foundations in the greater Milwaukee and the state. Their philanthropic distribution of over \$15 million to the greater Milwaukee area has directly helped organizations devoted to serving Milwaukee's most impoverished neighborhoods. For Journey House, the Forest County Potawatomi Community Foundation's philanthropic investment has allowed the organization to groom Milwaukee's young leaders through leadership development, job training, and academic enrichment. Their support has created a model that leads to high school graduation, civic engagement, and transition to college and full-time employment opportunities. In June 2005, 100% of Journey House youth eligible for high school graduation graduated, of which three young leaders enrolled with scholarships at local universities, and one young leader has been accepted in the highly competitive City of Milwaukee Fire Cadet program with the intention of continuing his civic service as a fire fighter for our great city. Forest County Potawatomi Community Foundation's generous philanthropic efforts and commitment to fighting poverty is producing results for our great city of Milwaukee.

I encourage you to support Potawatomi Bingo Casino's expansion, which will have a positive economic impact on our city and community.

Sincerely,  
  
 Michele Bria, Executive Director

Working with our community utilizing a self-help philosophy  
[www.journeyhouse.org](http://www.journeyhouse.org)



United Neighborhoods  
 Centers of Milwaukee

Wisconsin Technical College System

