

A Certified Community
Development Financial
Institution (CDFI)

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International Year of Microcredit 2005

September 6, 2005

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

Dear Ald. D'Amato:

The Wisconsin Women's Business Initiative Corporation (WWBIC) is writing to express support for a zoning change that would permit the proposed \$240 million expansion of Potawatomi Bingo Casino in the Menomonee Valley. Since founding the Forest County Potawatomi Community Foundation in 2000, the Potawatomi Tribe has donated more than \$15 million throughout Greater Milwaukee. The proposed \$240 expansion will provide the Foundation with greater opportunities to support the community.

"We were having a hard time borrowing from a traditional bank.

WWBIC is the reason we are in business today."

--WWBIC Client

The Forest County Potawatomi Community Foundation is committed to the growth and development of the Menomonee Valley, and has been a strong and vital supporter of the Milwaukee community as a whole. WWBIC is just one of many nonprofit organizations who have benefited from the Foundation's financial support.

WWBIC's mission is to provide quality business education, one-on-one individualized business assistance, financial awareness education programming, and access to capital, with an emphasis to women, low-income individuals and minorities. WWBIC has a successful track record over the past 18 years of helping our targeted market of achieve economic self-sufficiency. WWBIC has directly financed more than 625 businesses, assisted in the creation of 1,885 jobs statewide, and lent nearly \$8 million to small business owners across the state. WWBIC's experience has shown that on average, each of our loan clients generates 3.6 jobs.

We instill confidence in the individuals we serve, empowering them to take charge of their own financial futures. With our guidance, they discover new dimensions within themselves. They are transformed not only by financial success, but in terms of realizing life-long dreams and finding their own mission in life. The Forest County Potawatomi Community Foundation is one of our most important partners in stimulating economic development and neighborhood rejuvenation.

We urge you to make the zoning change necessary that will allow expansion of the Potawatomi Bingo Casino, contributing to our common goal of a thriving Menomonee Valley and the City of Milwaukee.

Sincerely,

Wendy K. Baumann

President

cc: Raejean Kanter