

## Forest County Potawatomi Nation

September 8, 2005

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

Re: Zoning Change Request

### Background Information

In May 2004, the Forest county Potawatomi Community announced plans for a \$240 million expansion of the Potawatomi Bingo Casino in the Menomonee Valley. The project was put on hold due to legal uncertainties created by two lawsuits. The FCPC is excited to continue its plans and design of the proposed expansion so that construction can begin as soon as the legal situation clears. To that end, the FCPC is requesting a zoning change from the City of Milwaukee. This zoning change is necessary step in making the expansion plans a reality.

*The Forest County Potawatomi Community has been a committed partner and generous neighbor since its return to the Menomonee Valley 15 years ago.*

**Charitable Donations:** The Tribe's commitment to the community can also be seen through its charitable giving through the Forest County Potawatomi Foundation. Since its founding in 2000, **the Foundation has distributed more than \$15 million throughout Greater Milwaukee.** More than \$10 million has been devoted to job training, economic development, and youth development in some of Milwaukee's poorest neighborhoods. The Foundation has also donated \$650,000 to organizations that are revitalizing the Menomonee Valley.

**Corporate Citizenship:** The Potawatomi community is an outstanding corporate citizen in the Menomonee Valley. The FCPC strives to forge positive relationships with area businesses, community organizations, and the City and County of Milwaukee. The Potawatomi Bingo Casino is proud to call Milwaukee home and continues share its good fortune with the people of there.

**Sponsorship:** The Tribe's support to Wisconsin is also demonstrated through sponsorships of Milwaukee's signature events and organizations such as Summerfest, Wisconsin State Fair, the Milwaukee Brewers, Milwaukee Bucks, Miller Park and Milwaukee Mile. The Tribe is a strategic marketing partner with VISIT Milwaukee.

*The proposed expansion will positively affect the Menomonee Valley in several ways:*

**Jobs:** The expansion project will add 525 construction jobs and 1,000 casino jobs to the current payroll of more than 2,000 employees. Beyond that, we anticipate this project will add 4,400 indirect jobs to the 6,300 jobs already created in Milwaukee due to Indian gaming.

**Increased revenue:** In August 2005, the Potawatomi made their revenue sharing payment to the City of Milwaukee and the County of Milwaukee in the amount of \$9.8 million dollars. The payment amount is based on revenue generated at the casino. The expected increase in revenue that would be created by the expansion translates to a potential increase in the amount given to the City and the County.

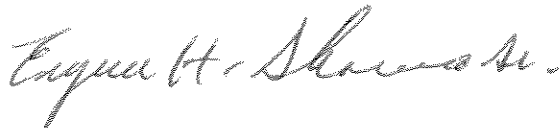
**Tourism:** Tourism is a \$2.4 billion industry in Wisconsin. An expanded casino and the partnerships fostered by casino business (hotels, restaurants, etc) will make Milwaukee an even greater attraction to visitors.

Also, I would like to add with this background information, as an elder and tribal member of the Forest County Potawatomi Tribe: All my life I have lived in poverty until Indian Gaming came to the City of Milwaukee. I heard the melting pot effect through education but did not see it come to reality until Indian Gaming. I feel very good to be giving instead of taking when my tribe was living in poverty.

As an Elder, Father, Grandfather and Great grandfather, I have a real comfort knowing my children and members will not have to endure the strain my people went through. All my Potawatomi member's who can remember those hard times, are now stronger with compassion for others living in poverty because we know how it feels to live without. And now that we have homes and health care, we see poverty everywhere. We would like to eliminate it, but know we can't solve it all for those who are feeling it as we did. We will try our best to help others in poverty.

As a Potawatomi member I ask for your support in requesting a zoning change from the city of Milwaukee. I thank you.

Sincerely,



Eugene H Shawano Sr.