

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

September 6, 2005

Dear Alderman D'Amato,

My name is Linda S. Nieft. I have been President/CEO of the Bay View Community Center in Milwaukee for 22 of the 26 years of this organization's existence. As Chief Executive of the Bay View Community Center, I have seen first-hand the good Forest County Potawatomi has done for this community.

I am writing to let you know I am in full support for the Potawatomi Bingo proposed expansion in the Menomonee Valley.

The Potawatomi Tribe has been a committed and generous neighbor to the charitable organizations in Milwaukee including the Bay View Community Center. As a small non-profit organization (in comparison to the YMCA/Boys & Girls Clubs), the Potawatomi Foundation has been a generous resource and always open to helping people in our southside community.

In 1997, we were chosen as one of the organizations in the Miracle on Canal Street promotion. On December 3rd of that year, our Bingo Game gave the Center \$5, 940.00 - a tremendous gift to an organization our size!

In 1998, Potawatomi gave us a Signature Gift of \$32,000 for new computers. Up to that point, we had second-hand or donated equipment that was basically word processing.

In 1999, Potawatomi came to our rescue when we were overwhelmed with need to help low income families and graciously donated the 19 Holiday Food Baskets we needed to complete our program, making sure every family who qualified received help.

For a 4th time, in 2004, the Forest County Potawatomi Community gave the Bay View Community Center \$10,000.00 to support ongoing programs for low income families including older adults and the Emergency Food & Infant Formula Pantry.

This is an example of where the generous charitable giving by the Potawatomi Community ends up in the Milwaukee area. The Bay View Community Center is just one organization.

Since its founding in 2000, the Foundation has distributed more than \$15 million throughout Greater Milwaukee. And this is only one way the Forest County Potawatomi Community contributes to the betterment of our community.

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

The Potawatomi community is an outstanding corporate citizen in the Valley. They strive to forge positive relationships with area businesses, community organizations and the City and County of Milwaukee.

The people who were the original inhabitants of the Valley are proud to call Milwaukee home. They continue to share its good fortune with the people of the community.

The Tribe's support of Wisconsin is also demonstrated through sponsorships of Milwaukee's signature events and top organizations such as Summerfest, Wisconsin State Fair, the Milwaukee Brewers & Milwaukee Bucks sports teams and the up and coming sport of Nascar through the Milwaukee Mile.

Not only does the Forest County Potawatomi Community give financial support to the area to help people but it is committed to providing jobs that support FAMILIES.

When so many of Milwaukee's traditional businesses and companies are either downsizing or completely closing up and moving to other states or even countries, the Forest County Potawatomi is GROWING, providing MORE jobs.

The proposed expansion project will add not only 525 construction jobs (the construction of Miller Park did the same), but 1,000 casino jobs and 4,400 indirect jobs will be added to the already existing 8,300 jobs providing almost 14,000 jobs in our community!!

Finally, the expanded casino and the partnerships fostered by the casino business, will make Milwaukee an even greater Tourist draw.

I was born and raised in Chicago and I can't begin to tell you how many of my family and friends hear those excellent commercials for Potawatomi on stations like WGN radio or see the TV ads with Vince Van Patten on TV. They can't wait to plan their next visit. Believe me - Potawatomi draws people (and \$) to Milwaukee from the Chicagoland area.

Forest County Potawatomi deserves our support to grow. Please pass the zoning change necessary to make the expansion plans a reality. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
*Linda Nieft*  
Linda Nieft