

The Allegan County News



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The Commercial Record



The Plainwell & Otsego

Union Enterprise

Writer doubts anti-casino motives, delay tactics

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To the editor: I applaud The Allegan County News's recent commentary on anti-Gun Lake Tribe groups 23 is Enough and Michigan Gambling Opposition. This paper always prints the truth about these groups that are bankrolled by Grand Rapids billionaires.

It's not surprising that 23 is Enough failed to file its lobbying papers with the Secretary of State on time. On Jan. 5 The Grand Rapids Press reported that a business belonging to another prominent opponent of the Gun Lake Casino also recently ran afoul of the law.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency hit GR-based Universal Forest Products with a \$17,500 penalty for improper storage of an underground gas tank. Anti-casino Pooh-Bah Peter Secchia is "Chairman Emeritus" of UFP.

It is ironic that the Grand Rapids lawyers that represent MichGO and 23 Is Enough in delaying the casino have asserted that they're scared the casino is going to harm the environment. Obviously it's a charge that would make a snake oil salesman blush.

We've come to expect it from these so-called casino opponents. Another prime example is the claim that they are "statewide casino opponents." Yeah, right.

Muskegon must be located somewhere near Green Bay, Wis., on the MichGO map.

How can anyone believe one word from MichGo and 23 is Enough? It makes you wonder what the heck our elected leaders are doing associating with such people. Yet Rep. Fulton Sheen and Sen. Patty Birkholz remain listed members on 23 is Enough's Web site.

Shame on all members of these organizations including Mike Jandernoa, 23 is Enough's chairman. Because—make no mistake about it—the casino delay has come at the expense of unemployed Allegan County residents. It's keeping food off kitchen tables in west Michigan whilst the child poverty and unemployment rates skyrocket.

Despite all the damage caused by Grand Rapids casino opponents, the good guys will prevail. Jobs will be created and our local economy will benefit. Cheers to casino supporters that are truly concerned with the well-being of our community. Keep fighting the good fight.

Tom Chappell
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