

Grand Rapids Press

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The facts on gaming

Michael Jandernoa's letter ("Stopping casino expansion," Pulse, Feb. 28) is riddled with exaggeration.

While it may be true that Michigan casino interests spent \$32 million on lobbying and campaigns since 2000, \$27 million of the total was spent on Proposal 1, of which nearly \$20 million was spent working hand-in-hand with 23 Is Enough to pass the measure!

Since 1997 the households of Michael Jandernoa and 23 Is Enough vice chair Peter Secchia spent over \$1 million in political donations at the state and federal levels. Two households contributing this kind of money is alarming and cause for concern.

The tribe was forced to hire consultants to defend its sovereign rights affirmed by the U.S. Supreme Court, due to intense attacks from rich, politically active opponents like Mr. Jandernoa.

We support allowing the Abramoff investigation to run its course. Based partly on evidence released by Sen. John McCain's, R-Ariz., committee, federal investigators may indict 20 more congressmen. No one should be exonerated before the investigation has concluded.

Jandernoa makes misleading statements such as, "Michigan has been united in its cries to stop casino proliferation." Facts on gaming indicate just the opposite.

Michigan Lottery sales set a new record surpassing \$2 billion in 2005. In only the third year of Club Keno sales, Michigan ranks second in the United States. Of the top 20 Keno retailers with the highest sales, six are located in West Michigan. Number one on the list is a pizza/sports bar in Grand Rapids.

The fact is Michigan is a thriving gaming state. It was long before Jandernoa got involved and it will be long after the Gun Lake Casino opens.

- **JOHN SHAGONABY**

Tribal Council Treasurer

Gun Lake Tribe

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