

Kalamazoo Gazette

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Apology due for insensitive choice

23 is Enough has chosen a racially insensitive source in their latest attack on the Gun Lake Indian tribe's rights.

It saddens me to remember why the Friends of Gun Lake Indians formed. I read an article in the Wayland Penasee Globe in November 2000 regarding a meeting held in Wayland to discuss a possible casino. This article alerted me to racist remarks made against tribal leaders. I called the tribe to lend any support I could and felt there most likely were a lot of other individuals who felt exactly as I did.

My friendship and admiration for the members of this tribe has steadily increased through the years. Many other FOGLI members have heard me say how much I admire the patience and unwavering dedication the tribal leaders have displayed.

In the midst of racial bigotry and discrimination, I have been amazed at how members of the Gun Lake tribe have conducted themselves with such grace and dignity.

Why would 23 is Enough have an individual like Frank Parlato, Jr. represent their views? Do they think hatred, bigotry and racism are tools to be used against the Gun Lake tribe to stop their casino project?

As a proud friend of the Gun Lake Indians, I respectfully ask that all of the members of 23 is Enough look into their hearts and apologize to the Gun Lake tribe for citing an individual who preaches discrimination and bigotry to carry its message.

Judith A. Bott

FOGLI Council Member

Byron Center