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Governor must sign Gun Lake compact

Thousands of building trades union members in Southwest Michigan continue to urge Gov. Jennifer Granholm to sign the Gun Lake Casino Compact.

Construction of the casino is expected to generate an estimated 4,900 direct and indirect jobs to the site at Wayland Township. More than 10,000 local people and 35 business, education, labor and governmental organizations support the casino.

Although 11 tribal-state gaming compacts have been signed since the mid-1990s, to date the Gun Lake Tribe is the only federally recognized tribe in Michigan not to have received a compact with the state.

Allegan County suffers from an unemployment rate of 7.2 percent. The construction industry has been hit particularly hard by the current economic downturn. Many local businesses have been forced to lay off employees, and receive tax abatements to justify reinvestment.

In this important election year, the Southwest Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council urges Gov. Granholm to please sign the Gun Lake compact. I hope the governor realizes it's in the best interest of West Michigan and her bid for re-election.

Patrick Klocke

Secretary/Treasurer

Southwest Michigan

Building and Construction

Trades Council

Galesburg