



LETTER: Truth on anti-casino efforts is out

Monday, April 2, 2007

Finally, what the Gun Lake Tribe and Friends of the Gun Lake Indians (FOGLI) have known for a very long time is finally out the reason for all the objection to the Gun Lake Casino is because Pete Secchia and others have always wanted to put a casino in downtown Grand Rapids. Power and greed have been the background behind this huge effort to stop this tribe from becoming self-sufficient. This effort has gone all the way from Bradley to the White House.

I am not surprised that Mike Jandernoa is distancing himself from a downtown casino because it appears he was sincere in his convictions, as he stated in the Grand Rapids Press he was against a downtown Grand Rapids casino. I would think he must feel manipulated in that he was put out by 23 is Enough as the "front man" to testify in Washington D.C. before the Senate Indian Affairs Committee.

It is noted that John Helmholdt, from 23 is Enough, was the recent spokesperson for Michigan Gaming Opposition. What happened to Todd Boorsma? Is he going to fight this effort for a casino in downtown Grand Rapids? What about the people that backed Boorsma's MichGO and fought against the Tribe in their efforts to become self-sufficient? Boorsma's past actions working with Blue Chip representatives makes it seem very likely that he's only opposed to casinos that would lift Native Americans up from centuries of abject poverty. I would think the people who did back Boorsma will feel especially manipulated if Boorsma does not fight this new effort from Secchia for a casino in downtown Grand Rapids.

Now, the big effort by Secchia will be to "manipulate" the Michigan Legislature to remove the exclusivity clause in the recently negotiated compact between the Gun Lake Tribe and Governor Granholm. The Grand Rapids Press has already had an editorial on this subject (hmm! wonder if Secchia was involved).

The Gun Lake Tribe has fought against this power and greed for a long time and I encourage our state legislators to do the right thing and approve the compact as written and not discriminate against this tribe again.

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