



## LETTER: Casino opposition arguments are getting old

Monday, April 23, 2007

Recently we've been barraged by the same ole song and dance from the same ole tired cast of characters. I wish these losing Gun Lake Casino opponents would realize the overwhelming majority wants jobs, economic growth and revenue sharing dollars for our community.

MichGO member Bobbie Holmes's letter on April 9 (Casinos do not answer state's financial woes) claimed the Gun Lake Tribe can simply stop paying the State whenever it feels like it under the gaming compact signed by Governor Granholm. Why would the Governor and her attorneys agree to such a deal?

The truth is, the terms of the compact are legally enforceable. The laws of our land are more sophisticated than MichGO's understanding of them.

It's hard to give these opponents any credibility at all because it's so hard to keep track of what they're really opposed to. It seems to change all the time.

When it's convenient and fits the situation, they're concerned with "social costs." Then they're concerned about their "business," (or rather their greed). We even hear casino opponents complain about Native American "special privileges" (U.S. History 101: where do you think we got all this land?).

For every argument MichGO and 23 is Enough uses, whether it's economic or social, there is a credible and neutral third party to refute the spin.

Opponents say the casino will be bad the federal government approves the casino and Governor Granholm signs the compact.

Opponents claim the casino will create crime and threaten the public's safety the Deputy Sheriff's Association of Michigan supports the Gun Lake gaming compact.

Opponents claim the Tribe will not pay its fair share of taxes Wayland Township (host government) files an amicus brief with the courts in Washington D.C. urging them to reject MichGO's baseless lawsuit.

Opponents claim that construction workers and casino employees will face safety risks because the Tribe can ignore Michigan employment laws all the construction trades in West Michigan endorse the project and compact wholeheartedly. Furthermore, under the compact, the Tribe agreed to comply with all applicable state employment laws.

MichGO and its billionaire financiers in 23 is Enough should stop the baseless spin. No one agrees with them. Jobs, economic growth, and revenue sharing would be a breath of fresh air.

Kathy Bowerman,

FOGLI Council Member,

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