

THE GUN LAKE TRIBE



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23 is Enough and MichGO are not Statewide Anti-Gambling Organizations

Groups Continue to use False and Misleading Claims

Bradley, Michigan – Today the Gun Lake Tribe is calling attention to the hypocrisy and disingenuous statements of 23 is Enough and Michigan Gambling Opposition (MichGO). Both groups have boasted statewide anti-gambling positions when in fact they have only singled-out the Gun Lake Tribe's governmental gaming proposal. Last night the Muskegon City Commission listened to a proposal for a city casino pitched by an Upper Peninsula tribe located over five hundred miles from Muskegon.

The Muskegon proposal brought a tremendous amount of interest from citizens for-and-against the proposal, but MichGO and 23 is Enough were noticeably absent.

Both groups have claimed to be against all forms of gambling. According to countless public statements by these groups the state has too many casinos and they have vowed to stop any new casinos in Michigan.

Despite these hollow claims neither group has acted against any other West Michigan gaming expansions or proposals from the horse racing industry, Michigan Lottery, or developers interested in building casinos, including Peter Secchia.

While MichGO's stated purpose is to "stop the expansion of casino gambling in Michigan," and their benefactors 23 is Enough's stated purpose is to "oppose the expansion of casinos in Michigan," it is transparent that their true intent is to oppose only the Gun Lake Tribe.

In addition to the Muskegon proposal there are a number of casino proposals pending around the state. Both MichGO and 23 is Enough have had numerous opportunities to back up their rhetoric and weigh in against expanded gaming around the state.

These self-proclaimed statewide gambling opponents refuse to discuss real gaming expansion already happening via the state lottery. Instead they focus solely on the efforts of the Tribe. They have spent millions of dollars to delay economic progress for area residents and Tribe, both of which desperately need jobs. Child poverty and unemployment in West Michigan has increased at an alarming rate over the last several years.

It is time for the leaders of 23 is Enough and MichGO to quit delaying the inevitable and allow West Michigan residents and Gun Lake tribal members to receive badly needed economic relief.

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The Gun Lake Tribe's proposed casino will create 1,800 direct jobs with a total average annual compensation package of \$40,000; 3,100 indirect jobs; and more than \$20 million per year in direct purchases of goods and services from West Michigan businesses.

For more information visit www.mbpi.org, and www.fogli.org