



# Forest County Potawatomi Community

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## For Immediate Release:

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## For More Information:

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### **Statement by Forest County Potawatomi Spokesman Ken Walsh following the end of the Governor's 60-day comment and review period**

*"After a careful, serious and good-faith review, the Potawatomi cannot support this Kenosha casino application because of the corruption associated with it and the hundreds of millions of dollars that will be sent to the out-of-state gambling interests invested in the project."*

## **Background**

A well-documented, multi-year FBI investigation of this Kenosha casino proposal resulted in four casino advocates pleading guilty to a variety of federal charges including providing illegal campaign contributions and bribery. This included a former local elected official in Kenosha.<sup>1 2 3</sup>

This casino proposal still includes several agreements negotiated by some of the same casino advocates caught up in the project's corruption and scandal. Key intergovernmental agreements at the foundation of this Kenosha casino application were negotiated and executed by Allan Kehl,<sup>4</sup> the former Kenosha County Executive who was convicted of accepting bribes in exchange for his work to help the Kenosha casino effort. Additionally, Kenosha casino proponents rely primarily on the economic feasibility report prepared for former casino developer Dennis Troha - who eventually pled guilty to funneling illegal campaign contributions to officials at the state and federal level.<sup>5</sup>

There are at least three out-of-state gambling interest who stand to receive hundreds of millions should the Kenosha casino project move forward. The Alabama-based owner of the Dairyland dog track where the casino is to be located will receive \$40 million.<sup>6</sup> The Connecticut Mohegan Tribe will receive \$12 million for its prior work on the casino effort.<sup>7</sup> And the Florida Seminole Tribe, who own Hard Rock International, are now the Kenosha casino proposal's planned developer and manager. In return, they will receive a huge cut of the revenue. In previous arrangements, the Menominee tribe was willing to share more than 25% of its gaming revenue with the potential developer and manager.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> "US indicts Wisconsin casino figure" *Chicago Tribune*, March 1, 2007

<sup>2</sup> "2<sup>nd</sup> Troha associate pleads guilty" *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, February 2, 2008

<sup>3</sup> "Ex-official pleads guilty in Troha case" *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, May 31, 2008

<sup>4</sup> Final Environment Impact Statement, Menominee Casino-Hotel 223 Acre Fee-To-Trust Transfer, April, 2012

<sup>5</sup> PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, Market Assessment Executive Summary, prepared for Kenesah Gaming Development, LLC, dated June 14, 2004 (hereinafter PWC Market Assessment), Original Submission Vol. I, Tab 5 and 5.A (OIG Attachments 14). PWC estimates are in 2004 dollars.

<sup>6</sup> Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin Section 20 Determination (page 32), August 23, 2013

<sup>7</sup> "Wisconsin tribe once partners with Mohegan now has Hard Rock deal" *The Day*, October 11, 2013

<sup>8</sup> "Seminole tribe's Hard Rock International would operate Kenosha casino" *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, October 9, 2013