



Muskegon County Resolution Supporting Little River Band of Ottawa Indians  
Casino in Muskegon County

Resolution #2021-292

WHEREAS, the County of Muskegon has developed a lengthy and positive relationship with the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians (LRBOI), whose ancestral territory included the Muskegon County area; and

WHEREAS, the LRBOI has been working for more than a decade to bring a tribal casino to the Muskegon metro area; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, the United States Department of the Interior granted the LRBOI approval to construct a casino on off-reservation land in Muskegon County at the intersection of Interstate 96 and Harvey Street in Fruitport Township, MI; and

WHEREAS, the proposed casino project by the LRBOI will provide much-needed jobs for residents in Muskegon County and other West Michigan lakeshore communities, with an estimated 1,500 construction jobs and 2,200 casino jobs, including additional employment opportunities for companies providing food, beverages, supplies and services to the casino; and

WHEREAS, as Muskegon County recovers from the pandemic, the addition of the LRBOI casino will aid in bringing back small business as well as attracting new business; and

WHEREAS, Muskegon County is a growing tourism destination, and this casino will bring increased tourism to Michigan from Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, the proposed casino will make Muskegon County a more competitive meeting and convention destination to in-state and out-of-state events with the addition of new hotel room inventory, a casino attraction as well as meeting and entertainment space to compliment Muskegon County's new convention center; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the jobs created by the casino construction and operations, specific revenues derived from the LRBOI casino will provide supplemental funding for area schools, social service organizations, and local governments, and

WHEREAS, residents of West Michigan hold out hope that residents of the Detroit area will support the growth of our Muskegon lakeshore as we provide opportunities for southeast Michigan residents to vacation, fish, boat, camp, and enjoy the beaches and to provide fun in the LRBOI casino without ever leaving the great state of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, efforts to derail this long-awaited economic development project that will provide substantial benefit to the Muskegon area are detrimental to the forward economic progress the Muskegon metro area is currently experiencing; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Muskegon County Board Chair urges Governor Gretchen Whitmer and both Houses of the Michigan Legislature thoroughly consider the substantial benefits and opportunities offered to Muskegon County and West Michigan residents and businesses from the proposed Little River Band of Ottawa Indians' Muskegon Casino and approve the tribe's request to build their casino in Muskegon County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That a copy of this Resolution be sent to Governor Whitmer, Senator Jon Bumstead, Representative Terry Sabo, Representative Greg VanWoerkom, the Michigan Senate, the Michigan House of Representatives, Michigan Association of Counties and to the Clerk of each County in the State of Michigan.

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The Muskegon County Board of Commissioners, at its July 15, 2021, meeting recommended approval by Commissioner Cyr, support by Commissioner Hughes, the aforementioned resolution.


Ayes: Doug Brown, Marcia Hovey-Wright, Susie Hughes, Charles Nash, Robert Scolnik

Nays: Kim Cyr, Zach Lahring

Recused: Malinda Pego (due to conflict of interest)

Excused: Rillastine Wilkins

I, Nancy A. Waters, Clerk of the Muskegon County Board of Commissioners and Clerk of the County of Muskegon, do hereby certify that the above Resolution was duly adopted by said Board on July 15, 2021.

  
Nancy A. Waters, Clerk  
County of Muskegon

  
Date

