



Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi

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**A Federally Recognized Tribal Government**

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**STATEMENT FROM THE NOTTAWASEPPI HURON BAND OF THE POTAWATOMI  
ON HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 54**

**House Regulatory Reform Committee  
July 1, 2010**

The Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi has a long legacy in Michigan. Pine Creek, which was acquired in 1845, is the center of our community and government. After years of documentation and several failed attempts, the United States government restored our federal recognition fifteen years ago, on December 19, 1995.

Soon after receiving our federal recognition the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi the federal government placed 79 acres into trust in Emmett Township near Marshall. It is there where we recently constructed the FireKeepers Casino – a long overdue economic development project for our Tribe. Remember, this didn't happen overnight - this approval process took over 15 years to achieve!

Through this journey, the Huron Band had to satisfy many local government and citizen concerns raised through numerous public comment periods. We spent millions of dollars preparing environmental and socio-economic analysis of the effects to the local community that the project might bring.

Through the agency approvals and court decisions, our Tribe entered into enforceable mitigation agreements with local government and state agencies to insure that the project mitigations required were implemented.

We bore all expenses associated with local infrastructure improvements including state, county road enhancements, and water and sewer improvements which include a 500,000 gallon water tower for Emmett Township..

All of this was done to insure that the local community had a "voice" in insuring that the project, that we are so proud of, addressed the concerns of the public and the local government agencies.

This process resulted in a development that the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi, the host communities, and the state can be proud of. It provided funding at the local and state level, has created over 1,300 jobs, in addition to a high emphasis on local supplier spending.

Remember, we followed the rules agreed upon in our compact with the State. We also followed the process that was set forth by the Federal Government. We did not seek gaming off-reservation under the "two-part determination."

The issue before you today, HCR 54, is part of the erosion of the the agreements that we followed in order to establish our economic develop project. Off-reservation gaming is rare and the Governor's attempt to forego the already established process is unfair and inappropriate. If the Governor followed the mandated rules that the Tribes and the State agreed to, we wouldn't be here today. Remember, we do not oppose allowing other Tribes to operate economic development projects, like a casino. What we oppose is changing the very rules we agreed to adhere to, in order to benefit one tribe at the expense of the others and our local communities.

For these reasons the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi Indians is opposed to HCR 54 and the off-reservation casino proposed near Muskegon.