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NO NEW NET GAMING WHEN HARD ROCK CASINO RE-OPENS DAIRYLAND GREYHOUND TRACK and MENOMINEE CLOSE AN EXISTING ON-RESERVATION CASINO

Craig Corn, Chairman of the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, released a statement today on how the Kenosha project replaces a long-shuttered greyhound track and that one existing tribal casino will close therefore resulting in no new net gaming in the state.

“When Governor Walker approves our proposal the Kenosha casino will continue gaming at a facility that has been engaged in Class III gaming since 1990, and implement a Menominee Tribal Casino in Kenosha that has been provided for by the State and Tribe in the Tribe’s Gaming Compact since 2000.

“The Kenosha Project will create 5000 new jobs and revive gaming on a site that first operated Class III pari-mutuel gaming in 1990, three years prior to the State’s 1993 advisory and constitutional amendment referenda related to expansion of gaming.

“The State of Wisconsin and the Menominee Indian Tribe’s 2000 amendments to the Gaming Compact authorized gaming by Menominee in Kenosha, and the State and Menominee agreed that Menominee would limit its gaming to one on-reservation facility and the facility in Kenosha.

“These provisions were agreed to over 13 years ago by Governor Thompson who was very familiar with the history of gaming and Indian gaming in Wisconsin, including the 1993 advisory and constitutional referenda.

“Subsequent amendments to the Compact maintained the Kenosha provisions, but lifted any limits on Menominee’s on-reservation gaming. Nevertheless, Menominee is willing to close one of its on-reservation casinos, and commit to opening no new casinos on the reservation once Kenosha opens.

“An advisory referendum from 1993 has little value in regard to the views of the citizens of Wisconsin in 2013.

“At the same time, the referendum that amended the Wisconsin Constitution in 1993 is as valid today as it was 20 years ago. That Constitutional amendment, however, affected only the State Lottery and commercial gaming. It did not have an effect on Indian Gaming, and is therefore not pertinent to the issues surrounding the Kenosha Project.

“Opening the Kenosha casino is the implementation of gaming long contemplated by both the State and the Menominee Tribe.

“We ask that the Governor follow through on the commitments previously made through the compacts. His approval will bring an \$800 million investment to the State of Wisconsin that adds 5,000 more jobs in his first term. If he fails to approve the Kenosha project some may say it is because he agrees that the tribes with the most lucrative casinos should decide the fate of the poorest tribe in Wisconsin.”

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