



May 21, 2010

Dear Michigan Legislator:

We are writing today to urge you to oppose House Concurrent Resolution 54. As leaders of statewide, grassroots organizations that have been opposing the expansion of casinos in Michigan for decades, we feel this resolution, if passed will have a negative impact on our state and set a bad precedent for the future.

The question of gaming expansion is not new to our state. We have 23 casinos in Michigan. There are both Native American and Michigan-licensed facilities. The people of our state have ample venues for gaming and have expressed a clear position on any further expansion. In 2004, the voters of our state amended the Michigan Constitution to require both a local and a statewide vote of the people for any gaming expansion. There was a great deal of debate and the voters passed this amendment 58% to 42%. It was not even close, despite the volume of dollars spent on the campaign by both sides.

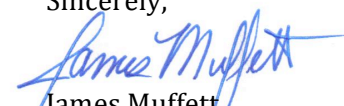
There are a number of problems we have with the path currently underway to bring a new casino to our state.


- This resolution would allow the Little River Band to locate a casino on land that is not currently part of their reservation. It would be precedent setting with the potential of opening the door to allow the other Native American Tribes in Michigan to put casinos anywhere they choose when their compacts are renegotiated.
- When the initial compact was negotiated with this Tribe, they tried to secure a provision for a second casino but this was rejected by then Governor Engler. The provisions of the agreement were with the understanding that "one is enough." There is NO need for an amended compact. We are often told that the State is obligated to approve Indian casinos under federal law but that argument is not valid here. Any State obligation was met when the original compact was signed. Governor Granholm has simply decided that another casino should be added.
- It goes directly against the will of the people of our state who spoke very clearly just under six years ago to insist that they have a voice in any further expansion of gaming in Michigan. Moving a package that would bring new casinos to our state without taking it before the people violates the spirit of our Michigan Constitution.

We hope that you consider the clear problems with this legislation and oppose House Concurrent Resolution 54.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

  
James Muffett  
President, Citizens for Traditional Values

  
Brad Snavely  
Executive Director, Michigan Family Forum