



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**REGIONAL BIA OFFICE RECOMMENDS APPROVAL  
OF MENOMINEE ENTERTAINMENT CENTER AND CASINO**

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*Director says planned Kenosha facility meets key 'two-part determination'*

KENOSHA, Wis. – The Menominee Tribe today announced that the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Midwest regional office has recommended approval of the Tribe's proposed Kenosha entertainment center and casino. Regional BIA officials said the Tribe's proposal meets the most important test required for approval – the so-called "two-part" determination that the project would benefit the Menominee Tribe and not be a detriment to the local community.

In a letter to Tribal Chair Karen Washinawatok, BIA Regional Director Terrance L. Virden said that his office sent a favorable recommendation on the Tribe's application to the BIA's Office of Gaming Management in Washington, D.C. BIA officials in Washington will now conduct their own review before issuing their final decision. Governor Doyle must also approve the proposal before the entertainment center can be built.

"The Midwest office's positive recommendation is wonderful news and another major step forward in our effort to bring economic opportunity to our Tribe and the Kenosha community," Washinawatok said. "The letter from Mr. Virden is the latest in a series of significant milestones that includes the overwhelming Kenosha County casino referendum victory, supporter-packed public hearings, positive economic and market studies, a strong Intergovernmental Agreement with Kenosha leaders and more. We are very pleased that our application continues to make solid and steady progress and that the future seems to hold positive things. Yet, we also recognize the need for continued patience as we move through a painstaking, lengthy and extremely thorough federal review and approval process."

There is no set timeline for a final decision on the project. The next anticipated milestone is the release of the Environmental Impact Statement, an exhaustive federal study examining the proposed Kenosha entertainment center and casino on a number of levels, including environmental and socioeconomic impacts, traffic and infrastructure needs, effect on market competition and more. The BIA's Midwest regional office drafted the EIS and transferred it to the Washington, D.C., office in November 2006 for a final adequacy review.

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Washinawatok said the Tribe and its Kenosha project team anticipate the final EIS will repeat the positive findings of the draft EIS, which was released in 2005.

“The draft EIS confirmed that this is a good project that will help lift our Tribe out of poverty while bringing thousands of jobs and major economic opportunity to Kenosha and Southeastern Wisconsin,” she said. “The draft, as well as separate economic studies conducted for both the Menominee and Forest County Potawatomi tribes, also indicated that our Kenosha facility and the expanded Potawatomi casino in Milwaukee can successfully co-exist, thrive, create jobs and provide billions of dollars in benefits to their host communities, their tribal members and the State of Wisconsin.”

In transferring the EIS to Washington, the regional office indicated that the Kenosha project would have no significant, unmitigated socioeconomic impacts on other affected parties or Indian tribes.

The Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin announced plans to build an \$808 million entertainment center and casino at Kenosha’s Dairyland Greyhound Park in January 2004. Economic analyses show the project would create more than 3,000 jobs and pay state and local government over \$2 billion – more than any other Indian tribe or Wisconsin business – over the facility’s first 25 years of operation.