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October 29, 2013

SOUTHEAST WISCONSIN – INCLUDING MILWAUKEE – WILL SEE BIG JOBS GAIN WITH KENOSHA CASINO, MULTIPLE STUDIES SHOW

Craig Corn, Chairman of the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, today released the following statement about job creation and potential revenue impacts from the proposed Kenosha casino:

“The Kenosha casino project will be a tremendous job creator for the State of Wisconsin, with 3,356 permanent jobs, 1,400 construction jobs and another 1,800 indirect jobs.¹ Job numbers are verified in multiple economic studies, which have also found grossly inaccurate the claims that Milwaukee would somehow lose 3,000 jobs if the Kenosha casino is built.

“What we can’t understand is how a casino that employs 2,615 team members can lose 3,000 jobs.

“KlasRobinson, a leading national consultant to the hospitality industry, projects a possible loss of up to 220 full-time positions at Potawatomi Bingo Casino in Milwaukee if competition is introduced to the marketplace. Even if that were to occur, Milwaukee would gain more jobs than it loses.

“The Kenosha casino will directly employ 3,356 FTEs. As part of a local hiring agreement, the Menominee Tribe also has pledged that at least 10 percent of these jobs – 336 total – will go to Milwaukee residents.² Therefore, the Kenosha casino will actually result in a net increase in jobs in Milwaukee.

“Governor Walker has stated that he will seriously consider all the findings stated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs in its approval of the Kenosha casino project. To that end, on the issue of jobs for Wisconsin, the BIA stated:

‘Our decision {to approve the Kenosha casino} is driven in part by our commitment to creating jobs. We believe that such a casino would create gaming jobs in Kenosha and tribal public service jobs in Northeastern Wisconsin on the Menominee reservation, much of them created by revenues brought to Wisconsin from Illinois. Milwaukee will face some indirect detrimental economic impacts as the result of (Potawatomi Bingo Casino) facing new competition; however, it will be relatively minor and short term.’

“The only negative jobs impact that Wisconsin will see in this scenario is if it fails to act and a casino is built in Illinois, either by a gaming company or a tribe. The Illinois Legislature is considering five new casinos, one of

which will be located only a few miles from Kenosha. If Illinois builds a casino instead of Wisconsin, Illinois wins, and Wisconsin gets no jobs and no economic benefits.

“On the issue of revenue impacts for the Forest County Potawatomi, the Bureau of Indian Affairs is very clear:

‘Milwaukee’s assertions are based in part on a market analysis that was not submitted for our review. Additionally, we were unable to determine the methodology by which they reached their conclusions. Therefore, we are unable to credit their assertions of a 40 percent reduction in revenue.’

“KlasRobinson looked at the impact to Ho-Chunk’s Class III facility about 155 miles from Kenosha and estimates that “it is highly unlikely that the opening of Kenosha will impact gaming revenues of Ho Chunk.”³ Therefore, if there is no impact to Ho Chunk’s Class III revenue, there should be no impact on its jobs when the Kenosha Casino opens.

“Governor Walker’s approval of the plan by the Menominee and Hard Rock International to build an \$800 million casino in Kenosha will allow the tribe the opportunity to raise itself from dependence to independence while ensuring that thousands of new jobs occur on the Wisconsin side of the border with Illinois.

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1 Menominee/Hard Rock Kenosha Casino proposal: page 31

2 Impacts on Milwaukee Commitment That 10% of the New Kenosha Casino Jobs Will Be Held by Milwaukee Residents: Letter to Secretary Reggie Newson from Menominee Indian Tribe and Menominee Kenosha Gaming Authority

3 Menominee/Hard Rock Kenosha Casino proposal: page 15, Project Viability