

January 29, 2003

Honorable James E. Doyle, Jr.
Governor, State of Wisconsin
115 East State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Governor Doyle:

As your administration considers negotiations over the compacts with the eleven tribal governments, I hope that you consider plans that go beyond just adding more revenue to the state budget. *While I recognize the size of the state budget shortfall, it is imperative that we not lose sight of the long-term opportunity to stimulate job growth in areas like Milwaukee County.*

With this in mind, I propose an ambitious plan for job creation and retention within the Menomonee River Valley that requires your approval and that of the Potawatomi Nation. We took components of this plan from the work done last year by former Department of Administration Secretary George Lightbourn and other business and civic leaders in the Milwaukee area.

The Menomonee River Valley includes an interesting mix of properties and attractions within Milwaukee County. Miller Park sits at one end while the new 6th Street Viaduct spans across the other end. Potawatomi Bingo and Casino, Marquette University's athletic facilities and several other businesses anchor the middle of the valley.

On the downside, vacant rail yards, crumbling buildings and empty lots also fill the valley. There exists, however, great potential in the Menomonee River Valley. This potential must be tapped to spur the type of economic development and job creation necessary to improve the valley. Funding is needed to move forward on clean up and site preparation.

Here are the details of my proposal that will create the funding needed for job development:

- **Extend the compacts well beyond five years.**

Giving each tribal government a compact that goes beyond five years will give them the ability to diversify investments and build sound financial plans for the future. The current structure of the compacts limits tribal governments like the Potawatomi Nation from greater expansion into other areas of job creation. Longer compacts will open the door to a wider range of jobs.

Part of the plan should also assure the public that the casinos are fairly run and corruption free with tough regulatory provisions.

- **Allow more of the money to stay in the county that hosts the casino.**

Keeping more funds generated by the gaming operations in the county of the casino will insure that the funds are used to benefit the local economy and the tribal government running the local gaming operations. *While a payment level can be set at any amount, we propose that it be at least as much as the tribe contributes to state government each year.*

This type of provision in the compact would allow the Potawatomi Nation to purchase land in the Menomonee River Valley. The land could then be used for light industrial or for a park to host high tech businesses. The compact could spell out exactly how much gaming revenue would be directed to the development and maintenance of the business park each year through an existing or new s. 501(c) (3).

- **Give the Potawatomi an incentive to invest in multi-million dollar venture capital fund.**

To encourage the development of the tech sector in Milwaukee County, the tribe could invest in the \$100 million venture capital fund established by the State Investment Board. This would energize the transfer of technology jobs to the freestanding business arena. *Extending the length of the compacts will provide a source for the funds needed to invest with the fund.*

I realize that now is a particularly busy time for your new administration. Since you are in the process of preparing your 2003/04 budget proposal, this seems like the perfect time to make this proposal known to you and your administration.

It seems clear that discussions with the various tribal governments about new compacts will be a part of the budget debate. I believe that any discussion about new revenues generated for the state budget from new compacts must also include a realistic plan for job creation and development within the county that hosts gaming operations.

Thank you and I look forward to your positive response to our proposal!

Sincerely,

Scott Walker
Milwaukee County Executive

Cc: Hon. Marc Marotta, Secretary of the Department of Administration
Harold Frank, Tribal Chairman, Forest County Potawatomi Nation