

MEMORANDUM

To: Michigan State and Federal Lawmakers
West Michigan Community Leaders and Elected Officials

From: Michael Jandernoa, Chair

Date: December 2005

Re: 2005 Year-in-Review

As 2005 draws to a close, we wanted to give you a quick recap of what has happened this year with 23 is Enough and our efforts to stop casino expansion in Michigan.

In short, our efforts have grown tremendously in 2005 and the stage is set for future growth and success in 2006. We have built a great deal of momentum and are making significant progress in our battle to stop casino expansion in Michigan.

There certainly have been a lot of newsworthy activities this year. Here is a quick “year in review.”

First, 23 is Enough has been bolstered by the new support of some key allies.

- A bi-partisan coalition of nearly 50 state Representatives sent a letter to Governor Granholm, urging her not to sign a compact with the Gun Lake Tribe for a Class III casino. They cited the mandate given from Proposal 1 and public opinion poll results that showed Michigan neither wants nor needs more casinos.
- Every West Michigan college and university president, save one, also wrote a letter to Governor Granholm asking her to curb the rampant casino proliferation in Michigan. Evidence shows that as casinos creep closer to our college campuses, some students are at a higher risk for problem gambling, poor classroom performance, excessive tobacco and alcohol usage, and financial stress.
- Focus on the Family and Dr. James Dobson join in our efforts and have sent the message that casino expansion in Michigan would seriously jeopardize the moral fabric and well-being of our state.
- Southwest Michigan First, the Kalamazoo area’s economic development corporation, has also joined with 23 is Enough, realizing the fact that Kalamazoo’s vitality and economic growth would be crushed by a nearby casino.

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Next, the efforts of 23 is Enough and its partners have expanded outside of the state and into the federal level.

- Chairman Michael Jandernoa testified before Senator John McCain and the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, focusing on the fact that Indian Gaming legislation is outdated, broken, and open to manipulation by special interests.
- MichGo, another anti-casino group working closely with 23 is Enough, has filed a lawsuit against the Department of the Interior, challenging the legitimacy of the process by which the tribes take land into trust for the purpose of casino establishments.
- U.S. Senator John McCain, chair of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, announced in December 2005 that he is considering seeking a moratorium on all new applications for federal recognition and land-in-trust.

Finally, evidence has surfaced to solidify the fact that tribal gaming is an industry racked with greed and corruption, and must be curtailed in Michigan.

- 23 is Enough research exposed the fact that the Gun Lake Tribe has a history of broken promises. Much to our surprise and disappointment, when the Gun Lake Tribe originally applied for federal recognition, their approval was granted with the promise in a letter and in the Tribe's own Constitution that they would never use their federally-given land for casino gaming. The Gun Lake Tribe also broke two separate management contracts, costing tax-paying contractors millions of dollars that were spent on behalf of the Tribe.
- Jack Abramoff, acting on behalf of his tribal clients, has engaged in questionable lobbying practices at the highest level to promote or stop tribal gaming interests. Millions of tribal dollars have been spent to influence Congress in unethical and unlawful ways.

This casino debate has certainly been a heated one in 2005, and we know it will only escalate in 2006. As lawmakers and community leaders in Michigan, we need your help now more than ever to continue the fight at both the state and federal to protect Michigan's families, the will of the voters, local control and states' rights.

If you have questions, want more information about how you can support our efforts, please contact John Helmholdt at 616-235-9380 Ext 14 or via email at Helmholdt@jonesgavan.com. You may also want to check out our website at www.23-is-Enough.org.