



May, 2006

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you for your generous donations - over \$4,000.00 this year! This was needed to help us continue sending updates. We are thankful for the Lynwood voters who defeated the Home rule referendum. We are thankful for the residents of Bloom Township who opposed a tax abatement for the HoChunk Soccer stadium. We are thankful for your prayers on our behalf to continue our opposition against the HoChunk reservation/casino proposed just over two years ago.

Just after we drafted this newsletter, we learned there are at least 52 applications presently submitted to remove thousands of additional acres from the tax roles throughout our country. The Lynwood property owned by the HoChunk nation is one of these numerous applications filed on March 29, 2006 to have the property placed into federal land trust. As you will see below, in our "federal level" section, the timing of this application in light of legislation being proposed to end off-site reservation shopping is reason for concern.

This application to remove the HoChunk Soccer stadium property from the tax roles appears to be in direct conflict with tax abatement agreements made by various school districts. We are planning to make this known to these school districts. This type of work is time consuming and difficult and will require understanding legal terminology in these agreements. We may very well need additional legal assistance to help in this area which will incur more expenses.

We also need a few more volunteers to help from time to time in the work of copying, labeling, folding and placing newsletters into envelopes, etc. The pay is the same rate as ours. It's the best pay possible with no taxes deducted! Seriously, the appreciation of so many shown in words of encouragement, donations and especially your prayers is more valuable than what money can buy.

On the local level, we believe the defeat of Home Rule for Lynwood at this time is a good thing. In the November 2004 general election, an advisory vote on the same election passed by a 2 to 1 margin. However, the March 21 binding vote for this referendum failed by almost the same margin. We understand the vote of the Lynwood residents may not simply be against Home Rule per se, but against putting extra power into the hands of village officials who have not proved themselves worthy of the extra power and responsibility. This should send a message to Village Hall that the voters are becoming educated and the citizens do like to have a voice. Please continue to pray that the hearts of the governing Lynwood officials may be changed to see a reservation/casino is not in their best interest or that of the Lynwood residents.

On the state level, the bill to eliminate riverboat gambling in Illinois is still alive even though it has not come up for a vote in the Senate and is not yet on the schedule to be called. As stated in the last newsletter, it is a long shot; however, it still has a shot. Pray that this bill will be called and not killed in committee.

On the federal level, things are beginning to happen that look very promising. First, as many of you may have heard, a huge scandal unfolded in Washington D.C. that involved politicians, tribes, and a man named Jack Abramoff. Mr. Abramoff was a very powerful and influential lobbyist in D.C. who worked for the tribal gambling interests and who was, therefore, loaded with cash. As could be seen from the news stories, his influence was wide and included both parties. After the scandal unfolded, the public and the politicians who were not involved began to see the incredible amount of money involved and got a glimpse of what was really at stake with tribal gambling. They are beginning to finally understand why there is such a strong push by tribes and politicians to expand tribal gambling: MONEY and lots of it. Second, because of this large scandal and the voices anti-gambling groups such as ours are making, Rep. Pombo of California (HB 4893) and Sen. McCain of Arizona (SB 2078) have both introduced legislation in the House and Senate respectively to eliminate "reservation shopping" (where tribes can place casinos in a good location next to an expressway off-ramp and away from their home reservations). These bills would severely

restrict the expansion of tribal gambling nationwide. Simply put, if either bill became law, our fight would be over as the HoChunk would be prevented from having their casino here. Great news for us! There is some “bad” news, though. Tribes do not want to see this passed and are pushing hard to put grandfather clauses and loopholes into the bills that would basically eliminate this benefit for us.

Action items: (Things you can help us do.)

1. Call your U.S. senator and representative. Ask to speak to the person in charge of Indian Affairs, and then ask them to support the original Pombo (HB 4893) and McCain (SB 2078) bills to restrict expansion of tribal gambling. Ask him/her to support the bills WITHOUT any grandfather clauses or loopholes. Please do this today!

In Illinois: Sen. Dick Durbin	202-224-2152	In Indiana: Sen. Evan Bayh	202-224-5623
Sen. Barack Obama	202-224-2854	Sen. Richard Lugar	202-224-4814
Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr.	202-225-0773	Rep. Peter Visclosky	202-225-2461
Rep. Jerry Weller	202-225-3635		

2. Let us know if you would like to be added to our email list in order to receive all updates and action alerts. This can be done by going to our website (www.citizens4community.org) or by writing to us at C4C, P.O. Box 542, Lansing, IL 60438.

3. If you know others who may like to be on our mailing or email lists send us their name and address.

4. Continue to support C4C financially to help us prevent tribal casinos here and nationwide.

5. Pray. This is the most important thing you can do. This fight is the Lord’s but we are called to be His soldiers. Pray for strength, endurance, wisdom, and ultimately, VICTORY!

The C4C Executive Committee