

RESOLUTION # 2004-10

**A RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO THE HO-CHUNK CASINO
IN LYNWOOD ILLINOIS**

WHEREAS, the Village of Beecher has been approached by citizens opposed to the Ho-Chunk Casino in Lynwood, Illinois; and

WHEREAS, the concerns center on the Ho-Chunk's assertion that they are a "sovereign nation" and are therefore exempt from paying any local taxes and not subject to the same regulations as other casinos in the State of Illinois; and

WHEREAS, If the United States Government allowed a friendly nation like Canada or Mexico to operate a casino in Illinois, and gave them tax-exempt status, free from any regulation, eyebrows would certainly be raised. If all of this were done so that Canada or Mexico could expatriate 65 million dollars a year out Chicago's South Suburban Region, we might soon become a laughing stock of the free world. We doubt that any region's economy could remain viable if it had that much money transferred out of it on a regular basis; and

WHEREAS, while this may seem like an absurd example, this is just about what the Ho-Chunk Nation is proposing for the South Suburban Region. The Ho-Chunks are promising to commit 25 percent of their net gaming revenue, estimated at 87 million dollars annually, for public use. The other 75 percent, about 65 million dollars, could be transferred out of the Illinois economy forever. Since the Ho-Chunks don't allow themselves to be audited by regulators, who really knows what these numbers are; and

WHEREAS, Illinois has spent millions of dollars trying to attract tourist dollars to our state, because economists realize that every dollar spent in Illinois actually creates more than a dollar in economic activity. As recipients of tourist dollars spend these dollars elsewhere in Illinois, tourist dollars turn over several times and stimulate our Illinois economy. A Native American casino will send huge amounts of discretionary spending dollars out of the South Suburban Region in a very short period of time, reversing all the progress we have made in attracting tourism dollars to Illinois; and

WHEREAS, the Ho-Chunk Casino plans to open an 800-room hotel, movie theaters, and other shops that will compete with local businesses. These local businesses have paid taxes to support local governments and schools over the years, but now they will likely be forced out of business by a huge entity that doesn't have to worry about paying taxes; and

WHEREAS, The State of Illinois also stands to lose a great deal of money because the Ho-Chunk Casino will be competing directly against other casinos in the State of Illinois that pay the Illinois State Government large sums of money. In addition, these other casinos have agreed to abide by Illinois regulations. Allowing the Ho-Chunks into Illinois without regulation might violate the agreements that Illinois has with its existing casinos; and

WHEREAS, the claims of economic benefits to the region are greatly overstated. Casino proponents claim that the casino will generate 5,000 new jobs that pay an average salary of \$45,000. If there are 100 table games in the casino as planned, we can estimate only 300 employees per shift, which gets us to about 900 employees. Where are the other 4,100 jobs? These must come from other operations that compete directly with existing tax-paying businesses, that may soon be put out of operation; and

WHEREAS, the \$45,000 "salaries" are also questionable, because a lot of this income is probably generated from tips, which may go unreported to State and Federal agencies; and

WHEREAS, we feel that Congressman Jesse Jackson's "cure" for the South Suburban economy is a horrible idea, because it will probably be as beneficial as trying to cure a sick patient by performing a cancer transplant.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Beecher, Will County, Illinois that the Village is hereby officially and formally opposed to the location of a Ho-Chunk nation casino in Lynwood, Illinois, and urge Congressman Jackson and others who support this proposal to reconsider their position given the facts presented to the Village of Beecher by those which are opposed to this project.

PASSED this 9th day of August, 2004.

MOTION: Peterson SECOND: Ahrendt

AYES: 5 NAYES: 0 ABSENT: 1

Approved by me this 9th Day of August, 2004.

Paul Lohmann
Paul Lohmann, Village President

Attested and Filed with the Office of the Village Clerk:

Janett Conner
Janett Conner, Village Clerk

Aug. 9, 2004
Date

(SEAL)