

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

September 20, 2017

The Honorable Ryan Zinke
Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Zinke,

We write today to urge full, fair and prompt consideration of the Ho-Chunk Nation's application to acquire land for gaming purposes in Beloit, Wisconsin. The Beloit community and the Ho-Chunk Nation have eagerly awaited progress for years at the federal level on the casino plan. The application is currently under consideration by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA).

This proposed gaming facility will provide significant economic benefits for the City of Beloit and Rock County, the State of Wisconsin and the Ho-Chunk Nation. The project will support additional business development and infrastructure improvements in the region. It will allow the tribe to expand educational, housing and health care services for its members.

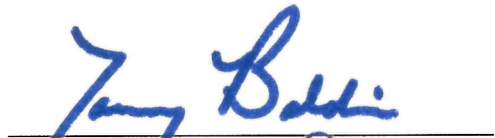
Moreover, this an important economic development opportunity in an area of our state that has been challenged by the loss of several large employers. While Beloit's unemployment rate has improved in recent years, it remains one of the highest in the state. The casino is projected to create more than 2,000 much-needed jobs in Beloit and the surrounding area.

The Beloit casino project enjoys strong regional and local support and has long been seen by the community as an important economic development opportunity. The Beloit City Council, Rock County Board and surrounding townships have passed resolutions of support for the casino. These resolutions are part of the application the Nation submitted to BIA.

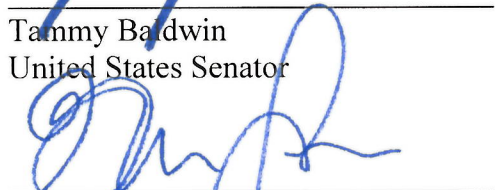
The Ho-Chunk Nation has worked diligently through BIA's application process since 2012. We understand BIA must next issue a notice of availability of the draft Environmental Impact Statement in the federal register. We urge BIA move forward without delay. This next step will prompt a public hearing on the Ho-Chunk casino project that will allow the public to contribute to an informed agency decision.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to your response.

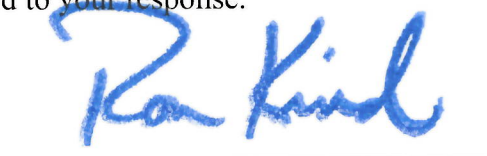
Sincerely,




Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



Ron Kind
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress