



SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SHULLSBURG
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December 12, 2011

The Honorable Scott Walker
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 7863
Madison, WI 53707-7863

Dear Governor Walker,

This letter is being written on behalf of the Shullsburg School District expressing support for the development of a casino and related business ventures by the Lac Du Flambeau band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians on land they currently own in our school district.

The creation of jobs in Lafayette county is critical for the growth of our school and our community. Currently, Lafayette county has one of the most agriculturally dependent economies in the state. The creation of large farm corporations and agriculture operations continue the demise of the family farm, which while family operations did not create significant new job opportunities, at least it kept young people here. Now, there is very little incentive for young people and young families to stay in this area. The impact on our school and community has been a significant detriment. As the economy struggles, people move away, school enrollments decline, revenue limits decrease, staff and programs are cut, and the vicious cycle continues its downward spiral.

Now is the opportunity and the time for a change. Since 2003, when the first discussion of a casino locating in Shullsburg began, the vast majority (87%) of local residents supported the project. Unfortunately, state and national government officials at that time did not support it and the development came to a screeching halt. The potential numbers being discussed talk about the creation of 500 – 600 new jobs. The impact on the school district and the community would be incredible. We desperately need an economic “shot in the arm” to stimulate growth in our school district, our community and our county. We support the casino coming to Shullsburg, and we ask that you support us in efforts to create jobs, increase tourism and add to our local tax base, ultimately improving the economic situation in all of Southwestern Wisconsin.

Respectfully,

Loras Kruser
Administrator/PK-12 Principal
Shullsburg School District