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February 3, 2025

Mayor Eddie Melton  
Office of the Mayor of the City of Gary  
401 Broadway  
Gary, IN 46402

Re: Letter of Support – City of Gary & Hard Rock Northern Indiana Proposal for Lake County Convention Center

Dear Mayor Melton:

On behalf of myself, President and Chief Executive Officer of Edgewater Health, and the entire organization, we provide this letter of support for the proposal submitted by the City of Gary (the “**City**”) and Hard Rock Northern Indiana (“**Hard Rock**”) in response to the RFP/RFQ issued by the Lake County Board of Commissioners for a Lake County Convention Center (the “**Proposal**”).

Edgewater Health supports the Proposal, as we believe that the City is the best home for a Lake County Convention Center to benefit the entire region. It is our position that the strong partnership between the City and Hard Rock presents the best opportunity for Lake County to become home to a well-run convention center that will bring about opportunities for all surrounding municipalities, Lake County businesses, residents, and organizations like ours.

As a healthcare organization dedicated to improving the health and well-being of our residents, we recognize the numerous benefits that such a facility can bring. The establishment of the casino and convention center will not only stimulate economic growth in our area but will also create job opportunities that can benefit our local workforce, including potential roles within the healthcare sector. Increased tourism and events will lead to a vibrant community atmosphere, fostering partnerships that can enhance our health initiatives.

Moreover, the convention center provides an excellent venue for hosting health-related events, workshops, and educational conferences that can promote wellness and healthy living among our residents. We envision opportunities for collaboration with the casino and convention center to engage the community in health outreach programs and health fairs, ultimately improving access to vital health resources.

In conclusion, we believe that the casino and convention center will significantly contribute to the overall health and prosperity of our community. We fully support this initiative and are eager to explore how we can work together to maximize its benefits for our residents.

Thank you for considering our perspective. Please feel free to reach out if you would like to discuss this further.

Our hope is that, in selecting the winner of the RFP/RFQ, the Board of Commissioners will consider our support of this Proposal. The Commissioners may feel free to contact me with any related questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Danita Johnson Woods".

Danita Johnson Woods  
President & CEO