



March 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 Honorable Mayor Melton:

On behalf of myself, President/CEO of the Gary Chamber of Commerce, 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**").

The Gary Chamber of Commerce supports the Proposal, as we believe that the City is the best home for a Lake County Convention Center to benefit the entire region. Our position is 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.

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

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charles 'Chuck' Hughes".

Charles "Chuck" Hughes
President / CEO