



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, Founder and Chairwoman of the Board of ECIER Foundation and our Board of Directors, 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**”).

ECIER Foundation 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.

ECIER Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that was created to educate, empower and equip our youth to become innovators and entrepreneurs and provide high school seniors scholarships. ECIER Foundation is designed to enhance, motivate, educate students on structured initiatives and increase the student’s awareness and implementation on community service. The scholars receive enhanced services in areas of college preparation. The foundation believes that empowering today’s youth ensures the success of students in a thriving community. Developing leadership skills can impact self-esteem and help to build one’s character. The programs provide students exposure, an opportunity and the tools needed for today’s society. We are delighted for the partnership of the City of Gary and Hard Rock Northern Indiana to provide funding for our students to attend the college of their choice to further their education. Our Board of Directors look forward to hosting many events at the future Lake County Convention Center.

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,

**Chareice White**

Chareice White  
Founder & Chairwoman of the Board  
ECIER Foundation