



March 13, 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, the President/CEO of the Highland Griffith Chamber of Commerce, and our entire 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”).

The Highland Griffith Chamber 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.

We are excited to see this long-awaited project of a Convention Center finally come to fruition. We believe this Proposal will generate millions of dollars into the local economy, as well as bring scores of visitors to our area and our local businesses. As an organization representing local businesses primarily located in the neighboring communities to this site, we welcome the opportunity to market and serve the excellent local products and services that our Chamber members provide, to the visitors of the 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lance Ryskamp', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Lance Ryskamp  
President/CEO- Highland Griffith Chamber of Commerce  
8536 Kennedy Avenue  
Highland, IN 46322  
219.923.3666