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March 8, 2025

Hard Rock Casino  
Attn: Matt Schuffert, President  
5400 W 29th Ave,  
Gary, IN 46406

Dear Matt:

The Whiting Robertsedale Chamber of Commerce may be one of the smaller chambers in Northwest Indiana, but it is also one of the best known. We are pleased to support the efforts of Hard Rock Casino to become the site of the convention center in Lake County.

What began as a 50' long festival 31 years ago, Pierogi Fest has become one of the most well-known festivals in Indiana and is nationally recognized as a best festival by a litany of media outlets and organizations. Becoming a renowned event took dedication, time and effort, all elements of our success. There is an additional element to our accomplishments: our partners, including Hard Rock Casino.

There are many parallels between Hard Rock Casino and Pierogi Fest. We both have made a positive difference in the quality of life in Northwest Indiana, we both draw people from well beyond Northwest Indiana, and we continue to strive to make our destinations even better in future. Like Pierogi Fest, Hard Rock Casino also enjoys the dedication of the people associated with it. But we have found as a chamber, that Hard Rock Casino also has visionary leadership, an essential ingredient in their success and their ability to make the convention center successful.

The impact, reputation, and vision exhibited by Hard rock Casino makes it an obvious site for a convention center. It is also the closest site to Chicago, which is a crucial factor if the convention center is going to be able to draw conventions and conferences. In fact, without the draw. location, and destination of Hard Rock Casino, it is hard to envision how a convention center would prove successful.

Again, the Whiting Robertsedale Chamber of Commerce strongly supports and endorses Hard Rock Casino as the location for the proposed convention center.

Sincerely,

Thomas Dabertin  
Chairman and Co-Founder Pierogi Fest  
Past President, and current Board of Directors member

