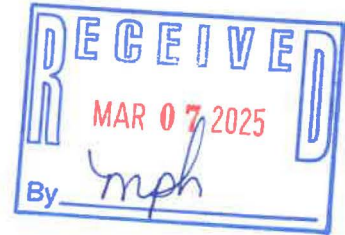


NORTHWEST INDIANA
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA

Feb 28, 2025

Mayor Eddie Melton
City of Gary
401 Broadway
Gary, Indiana 46402



Re: Letter of Support – Lake County Convention Center

Dear Mayor Melton:

On behalf of the Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra (NISO) we offer this letter of support for a proposed Lake County Convention Center to be located adjacent to the Hard Rock Northern Indiana, in Gary, Indiana. Lake County has been pursuing the idea of building a Convention Center for a number of years, and with the proposed support of \$100 million from the State of Indiana, the timing is excellent for such a venture.

A new convention center would not only bring hundreds, if not thousands, of new construction jobs to NW Indiana, but it would also provide new employment opportunities for hundreds of job seekers in the hospitality industry. We also firmly believe a venue like this, that could provide a forum for quality-of-life factors like art galleries, dance recitals, music performances and more, would make Lake County even more attractive to future employers and new Lake County residents.

We look forward to the Lake County Commissioner's successful completion of the RFP process and support the City of Gary & Hard Rock Northern Indiana's proposal.

Sincerely,
Dave Ryan
President
Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra

David Mika
Executive Director
Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra