



March 06, 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, Commander of The American Legion, Department of IN, 1st District, and the entire organization, we provide this letter of support for the proposal submitted by the City of Gary 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 American Legion, Department of IN, 1st District, 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.

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,

Tommy O. Penson

Tommy O. Penson
Commander
American Legion
Department of IN
1st District