



Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe
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March 12, 2012

The Honorable Thomas C. Hoye, Jr., Mayor
Taunton City Hall
141 Oak Street
Taunton, MA 02780

Taunton Municipal Council
Taunton City Hall
141 Oak Street
Taunton, MA 02780

Dear Mayor Hoye and Members of the Municipal Council:

Two weeks ago, the City of Taunton and the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe announced the beginning of a conversation about the possibility of bringing a destination resort to this great city. The development of a destination resort in Taunton presents a truly incredible opportunity for both the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe and the City of Taunton. This project will bring much-needed jobs and economic opportunity to Taunton and to the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe.

Today, we take the next step in this conversation about our shared future and ask for the residents of Taunton to have their voices heard. Accordingly, pursuant to Section 91 of Chapter 194 of the Acts of 2011, the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe hereby respectfully requests that the City of Taunton schedule a vote for approval of a proposed tribal gaming development. Understanding that elections are often expensive undertakings for cities, the Tribe will pay the costs of the administration of this special election.

As you know, the timeline dictated by the Massachusetts gaming law is very aggressive. Under this law, our Tribe must negotiate a compact with Governor Patrick, and the legislature must approve it, by July 31 of this year. Furthermore, the law does not permit the Tribe and the Governor to enter into negotiations for a compact until a referendum is scheduled in the host community. Therefore, in order to meet these statutory deadlines, we respectfully request at this time that the City of Taunton schedule a referendum.

This referendum is an important opportunity for the residents of Taunton to make a decision about the future of the City. In the months leading up to the vote, we will hold community meetings and listening sessions in every neighborhood to ensure that the ideas, needs and concerns of our neighbors and partners in Taunton are heard. Together, we can make this project a success for the City of Taunton and the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe for generations to come.

I thank you for your kind consideration of this request, and I look forward to working with you over the coming months and years as true partners to bring jobs, revenue, and economic prosperity to Taunton.

Sincerely,

Cedric Cromwell
Chairman, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe

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