

City of Taunton Office of the Mayor

Thomas C. Hoye, Jr.
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September 10, 2012

Mr. Donald Laverdure
Acting Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs
Bureau of Indian Affairs
U.S. Department of the Interior
MS-4141-MIB
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Mr. Franklin Keel
Regional Director
Eastern Regional Office
Bureau of Indian Affairs
545 Marriott Drive, Suite 700
Nashville, TN 37214

Re: Support for Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe's Fee-To-Trust Application and Gaming Plans in Taunton, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Laverdure and Keel:

As Mayor of the City of Taunton, Massachusetts, and on the City's behalf, I write to express strong support for the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe's fee-to-trust application and planned economic development activities in Taunton. The application requests that the United States acquire in trust for the Tribe certain land located in the City of Taunton (for tribal gaming activities), as well as land in the Town of Mashpee, Massachusetts (for tribal housing and government purposes). We understand the proposed trust land will also be considered the Tribe's initial Indian reservation following its federal recognition in 2007.

We have met with Tribal Chairman Cedric Cromwell and other Tribal representatives several times and have reviewed the Tribe's plans to construct and operate a destination resort casino in our City on the proposed trust lands. We support the Tribe's plans and believe the proposed facility will stimulate strong local and regional economic growth and provide many needed jobs.

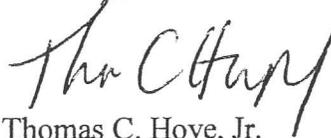
In addition, on July 10, 2012, the City executed an Intergovernmental Agreement ("IGA") with the Tribe. The IGA establishes a cooperative relationship between the City and Tribe, addresses the provision of fire, police, municipal and other services needed by the proposed facility, and provides mitigation payments to the City. The City will continue to work

closely with the Tribe throughout the application process as needed to ensure the IGA's goals and visions are achieved.

Finally, the City of Taunton was founded in 1637 and is located along the historic Taunton River—an important waterway used by the Wampanoag Indians. The Wampanoag referred to this region as Cohannut, Tetiquet and Titicut, and modern Taunton is located within the Wampanoag Nation's aboriginal homelands. In fact, the Wampanoag Commemorative Canoe Passage runs along the Taunton River and through our City, which is also home to Massasoit State Park. We therefore view the Tribe's acquisition of trust land and establishment of an initial Indian reservation in Taunton as a fitting return of the Tribe to one of its ancestral homes.

As such, we fully support the Tribe's plans and ask the United States to expedite the Tribe's trust application and related approvals.

Sincerely,



Thomas C. Hoye, Jr.
Mayor

cc: Nedra Darling
Department of the Interior
Office of the Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs

Paula Hart
Director
Office of Indian Gaming