



INTERNATIONAL UNION, UNITED AUTOMOBILE, AEROSPACE & AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT WORKERS OF AMERICA UAW

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ELIZABETH BUNN, Secretary-Treasurer

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June 20, 2008

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036
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Dear Representative:

Next week the House is scheduled to take up H.R. 2176, sponsored by Representatives Stupak and Candace Miller, and H.R. 4115, sponsored by Representatives Dingell and Stupak. These bills would approve an agreement between the State of Michigan and two constituent Native American tribes, the Bay Mills Indian Community (BMIC) and Sault Tribe, settling longstanding land claims in Charlotte Beach, Michigan. As a result of this agreement, these tribes would be able to establish casinos in Port Huron and Romulus, Michigan. The UAW strongly supports these bills and urges you to vote for them.

It is important to recognize that these two bills settle legitimate, longstanding land claims that have cast a cloud over the title to land in Charlotte Beach, diminishing the value of that land by 90%. To settle these claims, two successive governors of Michigan, John Engler (R) and Jennifer Granholm (D), signed settlements providing for replacement land to be taken into trust for the tribes. The replacement land for the BMIC is located in Port Huron; the replacement land for the Sault Tribe may be located in Romulus or Flint.

The establishment of casinos in these replacement lands would be fully consistent with the compact on Indian gaming that was approved by the tribes and the State of Michigan, as well as the state legislature in 1993. It grants GMIC and the Sault tribe gaming rights on any lands held in trust for the tribe by the federal government, which would include the replacement lands specified in the settlements.

Similarly, under the terms of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA), replacement lands are considered to be the same as tribal lands, and thus are eligible for gaming. Thus, the establishment of casinos in the replacement lands for the BMIC and Sault Tribe would also be consistent with IGRA.

Contrary to statements made by opponents of the legislation, this would not represent an unprecedented expansion of off reservation gaming. Indeed, Congress has previously approved five settlements of Native American land claims in which gaming was allowed on the replacement land, including settlements involving the Torres-Martinez, Timbi-Shoshone and Seneca tribes. Enactment of H.R. 2176 and H.R. 4115 would not lead to a flood of tribal land claim lawsuits by tribes looking to acquire new land to establish more casinos. In the 20 years that INGRA has allowed replacement lands to be eligible for gaming, there have only been a handful of land

claim settlements. Most land claims have already been resolved by the Indian Claims Commission or by acts of Congress.

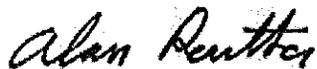
Although the UAW was originally concerned about the economic impact of these new Indian casinos on the community of Detroit where there are existing casinos, on closer examination we believe there would not be an adverse impact. A study by Hillsdale Professor Gary Wolfram has concluded that any impact would be minimal. Moreover, it is particularly noteworthy that two of the three casinos in Detroit are NOT opposed to the establishment of these new Indian casinos. Most importantly, the reality is that several Canadian casinos are already in operation just across the border from Port Huron. In our judgment, the establishment of a new Indian casino in Port Huron would simply help to keep existing gambling revenues in the United States, rather than having them funneled abroad. As a result, we believe these bills would contribute to the economic vitality of the communities involved, and help to create jobs for American workers.

The local communities where the disputed land is located and where the tribes would locate the new casinos have expressed strong support for these settlements. In particular, the Port Huron City Council and the citizens of Port Huron have voted in favor of the settlement. In addition to being supported by the UAW, H.R. 2176 and H.R. 4155 are supported by the state and national AFL-CIO and a broad range of other unions.

In an effort to stop these bills, other gambling interests have put forward a number of misleading and inaccurate statements. These bills would not be contrary to the state wide referendum passed by the voters of Michigan in 2004 opposing the expansion of gaming, since that referendum specifically exempted new Indian casinos. Furthermore, these bills are not opposed by the Interior Department. In this regard, it is especially noteworthy that these bills were approved by the Natural Resources Committee, which has jurisdiction and expertise in these matters, with strong support from Chairman Rahall and Ranking Member Young. Finally, the courts have not rejected these Native American land claims, since there never has been any judicial ruling on the merits of the claims.

For all of the foregoing reasons, the UAW strongly supports H.R. 2176 and H.R. 4115. We urge you to vote for these bills when they are considered by the House, and to oppose any weakening amendments. Thank you for considering our views on this issue.

Sincerely,



Alan Reuther
Legislative Director

AR:lb
opeiu494
L8458

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Building and Construction Trades Department

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February 21, 2008

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Hoyer:

I am writing today to ask you to schedule a floor vote for Congressman Dingell's bill, H.R. 4115, which will provide for and approve the settlement of certain land claims of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. The bill passed through the Natural Resources Committee last week by a bipartisan vote of 22-5.

H.R. 4115 is supported by Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm and former Governor John Engler. Local Mayors in the affected areas of Michigan are all in support of this legislation. Local communities have passed ballot proposals approving new facilities, and the legislation is supported by a bipartisan group of legislators.

Most importantly, this legislation would create at least 3,000 good paying union jobs in southeastern Michigan and much needed new investment in Southeastern Michigan. As you know, Michigan has the highest unemployment rate in the nation and is in desperate need of new jobs. Wayne County alone has an unemployment rate of 9%.

This marks the first step in correcting a 120-year-old illegal land taking from ancestors of the Sault Tribe. It has long been the Sault Tribe's objective to find additional sources of revenue to fund tribal programs, services and outreach to members where they reside. This is also a victory for Wayne County and every citizen there who is in need of a good job. We now urge you to move this bill to the floor so that the full Congress can expedite final passage to this land claim settlement to end a sad chapter in Michigan history and to launch a new chapter that will include 3,000 good jobs and more than \$300 million in new investments in southeast Michigan.

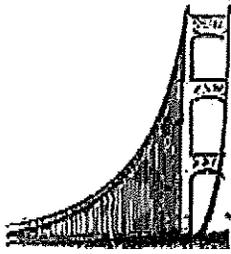
I appreciate your consideration of this request.

With kind, personal regards, I am

Sincerely,

Mark H. Ayers
President





**MICHIGAN
BUILDING AND
CONSTRUCTION
TRADES COUNCIL**

Lansing Office

435 Washington Square South • Lansing, MI 48933-2136
Telephone (517) 484-8427 • Fax (517) 484-1038
Patrick J. Devlin Patrick "Shorty" Gleason
CEO President

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council, I am writing in support of H.R. 4115 and H.R. 2176, both of which were passed with an overwhelming bipartisan vote of the Natural Resources Committee.

This legislation settles a century old land claim in Charlotte Beach, Michigan. They approve a land settlement agreement between the State of Michigan, the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and the Bay Mills Indian Community that was negotiated by former Republican Governor John Engler and amended by Democratic Governor Jennifer Granholm.

It provides for alternative land being placed in trust for the Sault Tribe in the City of Romulus and for the Bay Mills Tribe in the City of Port Huron. In Romulus, more than 2,700 on-site jobs will be created from the casino gaming business that is developed by the Tribe due to this settlement agreement. Another 1,400 or more will come from the construction project to build the facility. In Port Huron, a minimum of 3,500 jobs will be created thru construction and on-site jobs.

With Michigan currently leading the nation with the highest unemployment rate, it is critical that new employment opportunities are created to replace the recent loss of nearly 250,000 manufacturing jobs. Governor Granholm has estimated that the legislation would lead to \$30-40 million in new revenue to the State of Michigan at a time when additional resources are needed to meet our basic needs.

H.R. 4115 and 2176 are supported by a bipartisan group of national, state and local leaders. Chairman John Dingell and Representatives Bart Stupak and Candice Miller are the lead sponsors of the legislation.

Natural Resources Committee Chairman Nick Rahall, Ranking Member Don Young, Congressman Tom Cole, and the Co-Chairmen of the Native American Caucus, Dale Kildee and Patrick Kennedy all support the legislation. The local residents and leaders in the proposed communities in Michigan have passed ballot proposals in favor of development arising from passage of this legislation.

I strongly support approval of H.R. 4115 and 2176 because it will provide thousands of employment opportunities in Michigan for working families. I appreciate your consideration of this request. Michigan needs your help. Please call me if you have any additional questions or concerns.

Patrick J. Devlin
CEO

Sincerely,

Patrick F. Gleason
President

BUILDING MICHIGAN UNION

SHEET METAL WORKERS' INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

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WASHINGTON, DC 20006



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MICHAEL J. SULLIVAN
GENERAL PRESIDENT

Dear Representative:

I am writing to you on behalf of my union's membership in Michigan and around the country to urge your support of H.R. 4115 and H.R. 2176, which is sponsored by Michigan Congressman John Dingell and Bart Stupak as well as Congresswoman Candice Miller.

H.R. 4115 & H.R. 2176 settle a century old land claim of the Michigan based Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians by extinguishing their ancestral claim to Charlotte Beach, MI. The legislation would clear the clouded title to Charlotte Beach by putting alternative lands into trust for the tribe's use in Romulus or Flint and Port Huron.

Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm and former Michigan Governor John Engler both negotiated the agreement between the state and the tribe.

Passage of this legislation would lead to 2700 good paying, full time union jobs and over 1400 union construction jobs in Wayne County, which has an unemployment rate of over 9 percent. As you know, Michigan has the highest unemployment rate in the nation and is in desperate need of new jobs.

Governor Granholm has estimated that the legislation would lead to \$30-40 million in new revenue to the State of Michigan at a time when new resources are needed to meet basic needs.

I appreciate your consideration of this request. Michigan needs your help. Please call me if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Sullivan
Michael J. Sullivan
General President

International Union of Operating Engineers

LOCAL No. 324, 324-A, 324-B, 324-C, & 324-D

CHARTERED FOR THE ENTIRE STATE OF MICHIGAN • AFFILIATED WITH THE AFL-CIO AND BUILDING TRADES DEPARTMENT

JOHN M. HAMILTON
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GENERAL VICE PRESIDENT

RYAN J. DUNN
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DANIEL L. BOONE
VICE PRESIDENT



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LEO L. BODETTE
RECORDING/CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

TIMOTHY J. LaLONDE
FINANCIAL SECRETARY

DENNIS GILLOW
TREASURER

May 2, 2008

Dear Representative:

I am writing to you on behalf of the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 324 in Michigan to request your support of H.R. 4115 and 2176, which approves a land settlement agreement between the Sault Ste Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, the Bay Mills Indian Community and the State of Michigan.

Michigan's Democratic Governor Jennifer Granholm and former Republican Governor John Engler both strongly support this legislation. Natural Resources Committee Chairman Nick Rahall, Ranking Member Don Young, and the Co-Chairmen of the Native American Caucus, Dale Kildee, Patrick Kennedy and Congressman Tom Cole, all support the legislation.

H.R. 4115 and 2176 would place alternative land into trust in the City of Romulus and the City of Port Huron, where residents have already passed a local ballot initiative allowing casino gaming. Approving this legislation, sponsored by Congressmen John Dingell, Bart Stupak, and Candice Miller, will lead to over 5000 good-paying, union jobs being created in Michigan, which has an unemployment rate of over 7 percent. The development that would result from this agreement would assist the state in retaining gaming dollars and attracting new spending in the region. The State of Michigan has said that the revenue provided to the state will be at least \$30-40 million.

With Michigan currently having the highest joblessness rate in the nation, we are in desperate need of new employment opportunities.

Michigan needs your help. I appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John M. Hamilton".

John M. Hamilton
Business Manager and General Vice President



UNITED ASSOCIATION

of Journeymen and Apprentices of the
Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of
the United States and Canada

William P. Hite
General President
Patrick R. Perno
General Secretary-Treasurer
Stephen F. Kelly
Assistant General President

General Office File Reference: WPH

Dear Representative:

I am writing to you on behalf of my union's membership in Michigan and around the country to urge your support of H.R. 4115 and H.R.2176

The bills are supported by a bipartisan group of national, state and local leaders, including:

- Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm (D)
- Former Michigan Governor John Engler (R)
- Chairman Nick Rahall(D), Natural Resources Committee
- Ranking Member Don Young(R), Natural Resources Committee
- Congressman Tom Cole(R), Vice Chairman of the Native American Caucus
- Congressman Dale Kildee(D), Co-Chairman of the Native American Caucus
- Congressman Patrick Kennedy(D), Vice Chairman of the Native American Caucus
- Chairman John D. Dingell(D), bill sponsor
- Congressman Bart Stupak(D), bill sponsor
- Congresswoman Candice Miller(R), bill sponsor
- Cities of Romulus, Flint, and Port Huron, Michigan

Passage of this legislation would lead to 2700 good paying, full time union jobs and over 1400 union construction jobs in Wayne County, Michigan, which has an unemployment rate of over 9 percent. It would also create at least 3500 new union jobs in Port Huron, Michigan. As you know, Michigan has the highest unemployment rate in the nation and is in desperate need of new jobs.

H.R. 4115 and 2176 settle a century old land claim of the Michigan based Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and the Bay Mills Indian Community by extinguishing their ancestral claim to Charlotte Beach, Michigan and put alternative lands into trust for the tribe's use in Romulus or Flint, Michigan and Port Huron, Michigan.

Governor Granholm has estimated that the legislation would lead to \$30-40 million in new revenue to the State of Michigan at a time when new resources are needed to meet basic needs.

I appreciate your consideration of this request. Please call me if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

William P. Hite
General President

WPH:pjm



**International
Union of Bricklayers
and Allied Craftworkers**

March 7, 2008

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
Majority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Hoyer:

On behalf of the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers, I am writing to ask you to schedule a floor vote on H. R. 4115, which was overwhelmingly approved by the House Natural Resources Committee by a bipartisan vote of 22-5.

Sponsored by Congressman John Dingell and Bart Stupak, if enacted, this legislation would approve a land settlement agreement between the State of Michigan and the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians that was negotiated by former Republican Governor John Engler and amended by Democratic Governor Jennifer Granholm.

The settlement would provide for the placement of alternative reservation land in trust for the Sault Tribe near the Detroit Metropolitan Airport in the city of Romulus. More than 2,700 on-site jobs will be created by the casino gaming business that is developed by the Tribe due to this settlement agreement. The construction of the casino is expected to create an additional 1,400 jobs.

With Michigan currently leading the nation with the highest unemployment rate, the creation of new employment opportunities to replace the loss of nearly 250,000 manufacturing jobs in Michigan is critical to the state's economy and to the well being of its residents.

Again, I would greatly appreciate your scheduling a vote as soon as possible on H.R. 4115, which would do so much to bring resolution to a century-old injustice as well as brighten the economic futures of working families of Southeastern Michigan. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

John J. Flynn