

Thursday, April 12, 2007

Secchia casino bid is height of hypocrisy

Having done his utmost to try to foil the Gun Lake Band of Pottawatomi Indians in their efforts to open a tribal casino in Wayland Township in Allegan County, ex-gambling opponent Peter Secchia is now touting a betting joint for his Grand Rapids hometown. More than mere rank hypocrisy, this is the height of hypocrisy.

Secchia's former 23 is Enough group (he was its vice chairman) even enlisted this area's congressman, Peter Hoekstra, in its efforts to quash the tribe's bid, although Wayland Township was not in Hoekstra's district at the time he became involved in the stop-Gun Lake movement. As a result of congressional opposition to Gun Lake, the tribe was blocked from moving forward with its plans.

While those roadblocks have since been cleared, and the Gun Lake tribal effort to open a casino is now moving forward, the loss of potential income from that delay is still viewed as an extremely serious setback by tribal leaders.

We strongly suspect the book isn't closed on that story.

Be that as it may, all of the opposition moves and rhetoric drummed up by Secchia's former anti-casino group have now been tossed off the deck by the ex-ambassador and Republican insider in favor of a full-steam ahead approach for a Grand Rapids casino that would directly compete with the nearby Gun Lake effort.

One good sideline bet might be whether the 23 is Enough group and its anti-tribal minions will oppose Secchia's casino. Or will the group change its name to "24 is Enough"?