

No casino credibility

In Bruce Courtade's letter ("Tribal money grab," Pulse, June 16) he demonstrated his obvious disdain for the Gun Lake Tribe and its rights as a sovereign government.

Our tribe has never initiated race arguments into any facet of our struggles with so-called "opposition groups." It is 23 is Enough that has broached race. An attendee at one of the 23 is Enough meetings brought the issue to the forefront after referring to my tribe with a racial slur, as reported by The Press last year.

Courtade only seeks to confuse people using fear, lies, and race to try and spin the casino issue in his favor. It's cheap, it's dirty, but not surprising coming from 23 is Enough.

Our rights are guaranteed under the Constitution, and have been upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court. Federal law, not a small group of wealthy Grand Rapids businessmen, will determine when my tribe builds our casino.

The law is clear on initial trust acquisitions for the tribe, which is why our casino is inevitable. To get to Mr. Courtade's question, we have nothing to hide. We've responded to baseless attacks repeatedly. He knows our financial backers.

Who are his? Why doesn't he open his books, and those of MichGo to the public?

Is he afraid that he will confirm public perception that 23 is Enough really is just a group of millionaires with an ax to grind? Is he afraid that connections between 23 is Enough and MichGo will become even more transparent? Who's funding the MichGo lawsuit?

It's clear that the public can see through the lies that Mr. Courtade is spewing, that the Tribe has overwhelming support for this project, and that this project is inevitable. It's clear Mr. Courtade's opposition group has no credibility.

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