Intergovernmental Accord between the
Tribal Leaders of the Federally Recognized Indian Tribes in
Michigan and the Governor of the State of Michigan
Concerning Economic Development Interests

Entered into on May 13, 2005
Harbor Springs, Michigan

Whereas, the Tribal Leaders of the federally recognized Indian Tribes in Michigan and the Governor of the state of Michigan each recognize that the health and diversity of our shared economy directly impacts the health, welfare, and future of our citizens;

Whereas, Michigan’s state and tribal economies have been subject to internal and external forces that have undermined their former strength;

Whereas, the citizens of Michigan, both tribal and non-tribal, have suffered job losses, long-term unemployment, loss of status and dignity, and other family and household hardships as a result of recent changes in our economy;

Whereas, the current economic trends of globalization require ingenuity and cooperation between state and tribal governments to maximize resources available to all regional governmental systems to remain competitive;

Whereas, the Tribal Leaders and the Governor share the goal of fostering a strong and diverse economy that provides a myriad of job opportunities to their respective citizens;

Whereas, the Tribes resided in the Great Lakes Region in harmony with the natural environment as hunters, gatherers, fishers, cultivators, and traders for hundreds of years before the arrival of Europeans;
Whereas, while the traditional ways are the cornerstone of tribal economies and are fundamental to their cultural and spiritual well-being for the present and for the next seven generations, and while gaming has become an important additional source of jobs and governmental revenues for many Tribes, and for the surrounding communities, and the state, the Tribes understand that it will be mutually beneficial to diversify their economic base by developing additional non-gaming economic enterprises compatible with their regional economies;

Whereas, such expansion and diversification of tribal economies will be of substantial benefit not only to the Tribes and their members but also to the surrounding communities and to the state as a whole;

Whereas, both state and tribal governments have separately developed and offered programs intended to promote economic development including research, marketing, improved education programs, and government incentives and grants;

Whereas, better coordination of these state and tribal economic development programs and incentives can enhance future economic development and jobs creation in both the public and private sectors and may attract businesses and jobs that might otherwise locate outside of the United States;

Whereas, coordination of these resources for present and future generations requires the constant commitment, vigilance, cooperation, and mutual respect of all governments that have jurisdiction over them;

Whereas, to truly promote the interests of our tribal and state citizens and the next seven generations, sound economic development and jobs creation must proceed in a way that protects the environment;

Whereas, the Tribal Leaders and the Governor wish to enhance and strengthen the government-to-government relationship among the Tribes and between the Tribes and the state of Michigan;

NOW, THEREFORE, the undersigned Tribal Leaders and the Governor affirm their joint commitment to expanding our economic base through the development of diverse economic opportunities, enterprises, and jobs. They further commit to send appropriate representatives to meet at least twice each year to review progress made in developing joint economic opportunities, to develop strategies for future joint economic development activities, including recommendations for state, federal and tribal legislation, and international treaties, and to improve the coordination of economic development programs and resources among state, local, and tribal government officials.
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Michigan and the Governor of the State of Michigan
Concerning Economic Development Interests

Entered into this 13 day of May, 2005:

Jennifer M. Granholm, Governor
State of Michigan

Frank Ettaawagashik, Tribal Chairman
Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians

Jeffrey D. Parker, President
Bay Mills Indian Community

David K. Sprague, Tribal Chairman
Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians

Robert Kewaygoshkum, Tribal Chairman
Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians

Laura Spurr, Tribal Chairperson
Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi Indians

Kenneth Meshiguaúd, Chairperson
Hannahville Indian Community

John Miller, Tribal Chairman
Pakagon Band of Potawatomi Indians

Susan LaFernier, Tribal Council President
Keweenaw Bay Indian Community

Audrey Falcon, Tribal Chief
Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan

James Williams, Jr., Tribal Chairman
Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians

AaronPAYNE, Tribal Chairman
Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians

Lee Sprague, Ogema
Little River Band of Ottawa Indians

FILED WITH SECRETARY OF STATE

ON 5.25.05 AT 1:45 P.M.