

Menominee bid for Kenosha casino has tribes in Wisconsin divided

Written by Administrator

Tuesday, 16 August 2022 06:00 -

KENOSHA - The governments of two tribes in Wisconsin have expressed support for a Menominee casino in Kenosha while the [Potawatomi Tribe](#) strongly opposes the endeavor.

“The [Oneida Nation](#) has a successful history of working with other sovereign nations to build and support Indian gaming and other enterprises across the nation,” read a statement from the Oneida Nation Business Committee this month. “Oneida can be proud of supporting the common goals of self-sufficiency, economic expansion and diversification and advocacy for tribal sovereignty.”

Officials with the Stockbridge-Munsee Mohican Nation, whose reservation is adjacent to the Menominee Reservation, expressed support for a Menominee Kenosha casino on Saturday.

“The Menominee are our neighbors and share many ties and many of the same needs as our community,” said Stockbridge-Munsee Mohican Nation President Shannon Holsey in a statement. “We fully support their efforts to find the resources to address those needs, which can only help the larger tribal, regional and state communities.”

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RELATED: [Bristol Village Board approves the \\$15 million sale of land to company potentially interested in opening a casino in Kenosha](#)

Officials from the Oneida and Mohican tribes cite the fact that the Menominee Nation is one of the poorest tribes in Wisconsin and revenue from a Kenosha casino would allow the tribe to invest in health and education needs and reduce high levels of poverty, hunger and unemployment on the Menominee Reservation.

The Menominee Nation is partnering with [Hard Rock International](#), which is owned by the Seminole Tribe based in Florida, in the Kenosha casino project.

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The casino would be on about 60 acres of land on the east and west sides of 122nd Avenue in Kenosha.

The village of Bristol last month agreed to sell the land to Hard Rock for \$15 million.

Potawatomi tribal officials believe the Kenosha casino would compete for business with their Milwaukee casino.

“Potawatomi is opposed to this casino,” said Potawatomi spokesman George Ermert. “We’re opposed to a tribe from Florida with no connection to Wisconsin coming into our state and taking millions of dollars and bringing it back to Florida.”

He said Potawatomi officials do support a bid by the Ho-Chunk Nation to open a casino in Beloit in southern Wisconsin even though that could compete with the Milwaukee casino.

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[Kenosha, Wis., has a bid for a casino, but it has divided the state's tribes. The bid is from the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, which is one of the state's 17 tribes. The tribe is seeking a license to operate a casino in Kenosha, which is a city of about 100,000 people. The bid is part of a larger effort by the tribe to develop a gaming resort in the city. The tribe has already secured a license to operate a casino in Green Bay, Wis., and is now seeking a license in Kenosha. The bid has been met with mixed reactions from other tribes in the state. Some tribes support the bid, while others oppose it. The state's gaming board is expected to make a decision on the bid in the coming months.](#)