



**JOINT PRESS EVENT: ROCK COUNTY, THE CITY OF БЕЛОIT AND THE HO-CHUNK NATION
MARCH 24, 2021 3:00 PM CDT**

WEBEX LINK: <https://ho-chunk.webex.com/ho-chunk/j.php?MTID=mf52d7fae6563d48e90a46260b4781209>

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March 24, 2021

The City of Beloit, Rock County, and the Ho-Chunk Nation want to thank Governor Tony Evers for his support and concurrence for the Ho-Chunk Nation's proposed Beloit project today, paving the way for the Bureau of Indian Affairs to take the land into trust. This is one of the final steps in the approval process.

The \$405 million gaming and family entertainment destination is projected to bring an approximate 1,500 permanent jobs and thousands of construction jobs to the site in an economic win for the Nation, the Beloit area, and the State of Wisconsin. The project includes a casino, hotel, convention center, restaurants, and waterpark.

"We've been focusing so much time and effort on our COVID-19 response that it's almost surreal to have this great news of the Governor's concurrence today," said Ho-Chunk Nation Vice President Karena Thundercloud. "We want to thank the City of Beloit, Rock County, and our respective communities for all the support over the past several years. We look forward to the day when we can celebrate everybody who helped this project along."

The application was approved by the Bureau of Indian Affairs in April of 2020, setting a deadline of one year for the Governor's concurrence or to request a 6-month extension. The Nation has worked with Wisconsin's Department of Administration, Division of Gaming as it reviewed the application which resulted in the Governor's concurrence.

"The City of Beloit remains optimistic and hopeful that we can celebrate a groundbreaking soon. The City of Beloit is committed to working with the Ho-Chunk Nation on this development," said Beloit City Manager Lori Curtis Luther. "Not only will the Ho-Chunk Nation bring economic development, job growth and entertainment activity to our community, but the Nation will also provide cultural and historical education to our residents. We look forward to welcoming the Ho-Chunk Nation back to their home."

Rock County Board Chairman Rich Bostwick says, "Rock County appreciates that Governor Evers shares the local vision for how this project will impact our economy and help make Beloit an entertainment destination. Moving forward with this development as Rock County comes out of the pandemic will accelerate our community's economic growth. We look forward to continuing to work with our partners in the Ho-Chunk Nation and the City of Beloit to make this project a success."

“As our community strives to recover from the impact of COVID-19, we are thankful that carefully planned projects like this can continue to move forward,” said Beloit City Council President Regina Dunkin. “An entertainment destination of this magnitude is a win for the entire Greater Beloit region and will provide job opportunities for our residents. We send our sincerest appreciation to Governor Evers for his careful review and approval of this project. Congratulations to the Ho-Chunk Nation, we look forward to seeing your success in Beloit!”

With the Governor’s concurrence, the Bureau of Indian Affairs will prepare the determination and begin the final administrative process for accepting the land into trust. Inquiries for prospective partnerships and employment opportunities may be sent to Beloitproject@ho-chunk.com.
