

Testimony of LORAIN MAYOR CRAIG FOLTIN

US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES RESOURCES COMMITTEE, RICH POMBO, CHAIRMAN

--- April 27th, 2005

Introduction

- Background on Lorain
 - o Right on Lake Erie, 30 miles west of Cleveland, not suburb
 - o 68,000 – Heavily Democrat – Urban - Blue Collar - Union Steel town
 - o International City – diverse culture
- Lorain is text book representation of Manufacturing Decline in America
- However we have a tremendous Asset with our undeveloped (formerly industrial) waterfront and deep water harbor

120 years manufacturing

- Ford, Amship, Steel

Times Have Changed Though

- Those jobs are all but gone.
- Unemployment remains near top of the state which is near the top in the Nation. We rank 45 out of 50 states in employment.

City Operations

- Lorain cannot continue to provide basic services to citizens. With Ford leaving it also takes 7% of our budget. The state has dramatically cut its funding of local governments. Already inadequate police, fire, park and street services will be decimated. 20% of our workforce is gone.

Lorain deserves the opportunity to redefine our self

- Manufacturing jobs just aren't being created in Ohio
- Technology and other business jobs also are not being created
- For 25 years jobs in our city have been on decline. Nobody has been able to find the panacea
- We have a tremendous plan with the Shawnee that includes not only gaming, but business, retail, restaurants, a tremendous museum and plenty of activity which take advantage of our waterfront, like excursions to our historic lighthouse. (Submitted the details) Our plan develops, but preserves and restores the land to a beauty that has not been seen for 150 years because of its industrial use. (Journal front section)
- Ohio is surrounded by gambling in Michigan, Indiana, Ontario, New York, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. Busses leave every day from Lorain from..... Our citizens want it in the worst of ways.

Specific appeal against restricting off-reservation gaming

- We have a deal in Lorain that is fair and just to all parties. It gives our City a chance to rebuild itself and take advantage of our waterfront, while allowing the tribe to improve education, housing, and health care for its members.

In Closing

- Maybe some regulation is necessary, I do not know enough to make that call. But what I do know is we want the ability to do this. Allow us this option. It gives us additional alternatives and more opportunities. Do not take the choice away from us or the Indians to form these partnerships.

- I thank you for the opportunity to speak before you today. And as you move forward, please keep in mind situations like we have in Lorain Ohio.