

**Russ Carnahan**

3RD DISTRICT, MISSOURI

SENIOR MAJORITY WHIP

FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN

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MIDDLE EAST &

SOUTH ASIA SUBCOMMITTEE

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WATER RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

RESEARCH AND SCIENCE EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE



**Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives**

Washington, DC

September 10, 2010

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Mr. James Matthewson  
Chairman  
Missouri Gaming Commission  
3417 Knipp Drive  
PO Box 1847  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dear Chairman Matthewson:

I am writing in regard to the proposed application to build a casino in north St. Louis County by the North County Developers, LLC.

The proposed site of the casino, at the heart of the Confluence of the Great Rivers, is a place of great significance for historical, environmental and cultural reasons. As you know surrounding the Confluence is 200 square miles of open space, parks, interpretative centers, heritage sites, and recreational trails.

Over the past decade more than a \$150 million in private, state, and federal funding have been invested in region to highlight the natural beauty and resources of the area. This funding has enabled acres of open space to be set aside and miles of trails along the rivers adding to the transformation of the region. Recently, several museums and conservation areas have opened to bring sustainable, eco-friendly tourism to the area. It is estimated several hundred thousand visitors visit region annually, which makes it a tourist destination in the St. Louis metropolitan region.

Finally, the National Audubon Society has recognized the Confluence as one of the most significant migratory flyways on earth, with more than sixty percent of North American birds passing through this area every spring and fall making it a great place for birdwatchers from across the world.

I believe it is both a regional and national treasure that should be preserved for future generations. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Russ Carnahan  
Member of Congress