

Chemung County  
Chamber of Commerce



January 14, 2014

LeeAnn Tinney, Director  
Tioga County Economic Development & Planning  
56 Main Street, Owego, NY 13827

Dear Ms. Tinney,

As the Gaming Commission and its Siting Board deliberate the important decision of which developer will be granted license to build and operate a full gaming casino in the Eastern Southern Tier region, please forward this letter as an emphatic endorsement of the proposal presented by Tioga Downs.

This endorsement is not lightly made but, rather, is the result of extensive analysis by this organization's Public Affairs Council and Board of Directors. It is more pragmatic than parochial and is, hopefully, both visionary and contemporary. It is made on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce and our affiliated Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Certainly, a commanding consideration is the daunting record by Tioga Downs of deadlines met and promises kept. The employment, programming, facility enhancements, marketing, investment, performance, revenues and taxes, along with pervasive local and regional community support, have all been stellar. While these achievements are commendable, they are more significant as a demonstration of fulfillment which is unique among the proposals in the region.

As you well know, there are other components which distinguish the Tioga Downs proposal. For example, the Nichols location is beyond the competitive reach and redundancy of the Catskills and other Upstate regional casino sites as well as those of Pennsylvania. On the other hand, Nichols is ideally located as the gateway to the Finger Lakes for that burgeoning tourism region's most lucrative markets.

Finally, it would be difficult to overstate the potential and the need for the immediate and long-term economic impact which a full gaming casino at Tioga Downs would engender. Even as we applaud the region's resiliency in response to devastation of floods and lost industries, we very much appreciate that the Tioga Downs project represents the infusion of exponentially greater economic opportunity for a whole spectrum of workers and entrepreneurs alike.

We believe Tioga Downs is a compelling candidate and trust the New York State Gaming Commission and Siting Board will agree.

Sincerely,

Kevin C. Keeley  
President & Chief Executive Officer

## GREATER VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



109 Chemung St., Waverly, NY 14892  
Phone: 607-249-6192 Fax: 607-249-6189  
Email: gvcc@CQServices.com  
Website: [www.GreaterValleyChamberofCommerce.com](http://www.GreaterValleyChamberofCommerce.com)

December 26, 2013

LeeAnn Tinney, Director  
Tioga County Economic Development & Planning  
56 Main Street  
Owego, NY 13827

**Re: Support of Award of Casino License to Tioga Downs, Nichols, NY**

Dear Ms. Tinney:

This letter supports the expansion of casino gaming at Tioga Downs in Nichols, NY. The award of the one available casino license in the Eastern Southern Tier area would be well deserved and essential to the continued valuable economic and tourism development in Tioga County.

Tioga Downs has made a significant private investment converting a long-time, vacant horse track into a fabulous tourism destination. In addition in anticipation of the passage of the Upstate New York Gaming and Economic Development Act, preparations for the expansion of the current facility into a full casino are readied for immediate implementation.

The impact the annual revenue to our local schools and municipalities generated by the expansion of Tioga Downs into a gaming facility would bolster the economy. In 2011, Tioga County was devastated by flooding. The losses the community and businesses endured were staggering,

Tioga Downs has been a first rate community partner and we encourage the selection committee to approve their submission.

Sincerely,  
**James R. Carroll, Jr., Esquire**  
James R. Carroll, Jr., Esquire  
Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce President  
109 Chemung St.  
Waverly, NY 14892

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## NEWARK VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

January 11, 2014

LeeAnn Tinney, Director  
Tioga County Economic Development & Planning  
56 Main Street  
Owego, NY 13827

Re: Support of Award of Casino License to Tioga Downs, Nichols, NY

Dear Ms. Tinney:

This letter supports the expansion of casino gaming at Tioga Downs in Nichols, NY. The award of the one available casino license in the Eastern Southern Tier area would be well deserved and essential to the continued valuable economic and tourism development in Tioga County.

Tioga Downs has made a significant private investment converting a long-time, vacant horse track into a fabulous tourism destination. In addition in anticipation of the passage of the Upstate New York Gaming and Economic Development Act, preparations for the expansion of the current facility into a full casino are readied for immediate implementation.

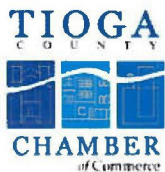
The impact the annual revenue to our local schools and municipalities generated by the expansion of Tioga Downs into a gaming facility would bolster the economy. In 2011, Tioga County was devastated by flooding. The losses the community and businesses endured were staggering.

Tioga Downs has been a first rate community partner and we encourage the selection committee to approve their submission.

Sincerely,

Newark Valley Chamber of Commerce  
Kathleen Amato, Secretary

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January 3, 2014

LeeAnn Tinney, Director  
Tioga County Economic Development & Planning  
56 Main Street  
Owego, NY 13827

Re: Support of Tioga Downs for Casino Gaming License

Dear Ms. Tinney:

On behalf of the Tioga County Chamber of Commerce and its Board of Directors, we fully support Tioga Downs being awarded the only table game casino license in the Southern Tier. Tioga Downs is in the best position with their existing facility and statewide experience to succeed with this endeavor.

The mission of the Tioga County Chamber of Commerce is to be a catalyst in the support and promotion of the commercial and civic well-being of Tioga County. Thus, supporting Tioga Downs as a full gaming casino is a natural path for the Tioga Chamber to follow. Tioga Downs has been an invested and generous community partner. They continually fulfill a need in relation to our non-profit organizations and communities with funding, employment, agricultural benefits, tourism, etc. The additional revenues that they would generate with the casino designation will help the continued economic viability of our schools, municipalities and county.

Tioga Downs has been a first rate, generous community partner and we encourage the selection committee to approve their submission.

Sincerely,

Gwen G. Kania  
Director of Operations

Tioga County Chamber of Commerce  
80 North Avenue  
Owego, NY 13827  
607-687-2020

TIOGA DOWNS RACETRACK, LLC  
Exhibit IX.A.1.b. (cont.)



214 N. FRANKLIN STREET, WATKINS GLEN, NY 14891

T 800 607 4552 F 607 535 4300 607 535 6243

WWW.WATKINSGLENCHAMBER.COM

SOMETHING SPECIAL AT every TURN

Tioga Downs Casino  
Tom Osiecki, President  
PO Box 509  
Nichols, NY 13812

March 24, 2014

Dear Tom,

This letter supports the expansion of casino gaming at Tioga Downs in Nichols, NY. The award of an available casino license in the Eastern Southern Tier area would be well deserved and essential to the continued valuable economic and tourism development in Tioga County.

Tioga Downs has been a first rate community partner, and we are happy to support such a terrific project!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rebekah LaMoreaux". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Rebekah LaMoreaux,  
President & CEO



TIOGA DOWNS RACETRACK, LLC  
Exhibit IX.A.1.b. (cont.)

December 12, 2013

LeeAnn Tinney, Director

Tioga County Economic Development & Planning

56 Main Street

Owego, NY 13827

RE: Support of Award of Casino License to Tioga Downs, Nichols, NY

Dear Ms. Tinney,

This letter supports the expansion of casino gaming at Tioga Downs in Nichols, NY. The award of the one available casino license in the Eastern Southern Tier area would be well deserved and essential to the continued valuable economic and tourism development in Tioga County.

Tioga Downs has created a tourism destination and is ready and able to implement full casino preparations immediately. The revenue generated will make a huge impact on the annual revenue to our local schools and municipalities. As well as adding much needed revenue to the local economies, bringing tourists to our small towns to shop and dine.

Tioga Downs has been a wonderful and generous community partner and we encourage the selection committee to approve their submission.

Thank you,

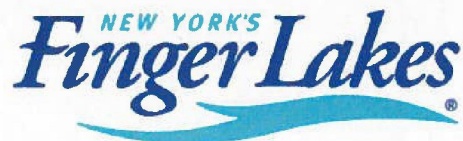


Bob Wright, President

Waverly Business Association

P. O. Box 676

Waverly, NY 14892



March 18, 2014

Thomas Osiecki, President and CEO  
Tioga Downs Casino  
Post Office Box 509  
2384 West River Road  
Nicholas, New York 13812

Dear Mr. Osiecki,  
The Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance's Board of Directors wish to express our support to Tioga Downs Casino's application for a commercial casino gaming license in the Southern Tier region.

We believe that the expansion of Tioga Downs in this manner will greatly benefit the entire region. Such development represents a strong visitor attraction that will create a positive ripple effect for lodging, dining and historic sites throughout the area.

We look forward to a successful determination and that in the not too distant future the expanded Tioga Downs Casino facility will be operational and welcoming visitors!

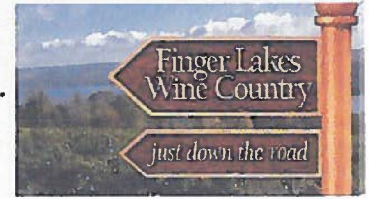
With best wishes,

Cynthia Kimble, President  
Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance  
309 Lake Street  
Penn Yan, NY 14527

Joseph Gober, Chair of the Board  
Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance  
Owner, Americana Vineyards

**SPLENDID**  
*from any direction!*

ee the beauty, feel the history, taste the wine.



May 30, 2014

Mr. Jeffrey Gural  
Chairman/CEO  
Tioga Downs Casino  
2384 West River Road  
Nichols, NY 13812

Dear Mr. Gural,

This letter supports the expansion of casino gaming at Tioga Downs in Nichols, New York. The award of the casino gambling license would be well deserved and a significant component for the continuation of economic and overall tourism development in Tioga County and for the entire Southern Tier and Finger Lakes regions of New York.

A strong tourism industry adds depth to a community, making it much more desirable to live and work. It is the belief of area employers and civic leaders that everyone benefits from a community rich in history, culture, attractions and scenic beauty.

Finger Lakes Wine Country Tourism Marketing Association (FLWCTMA) was organized as an entity in 2000 with one purpose in mind—to promote economic development in the Finger Lakes region of the state of New York. With this principle in mind, FLWCTMA is encouraged by the passage of the New York Gambling and Economic Development Act, allowing casino gambling in New York State. This law brings the state closer to establishing world-class destination gaming resorts that will attract tourists to Upstate New York, supporting thousands of jobs as well as adding revenue for local businesses, boosting tourism and economic development in communities across the region.

Tioga Downs has made a significant private investment converting a long-time vacant property into a fabulous tourism destination in the Finger Lakes region. In anticipation of a full gaming license being conferred upon Tioga Downs, the additional expansion of the existing facility into a top-tier casino will significantly further the positive impact to our region.

Tioga Downs has also been a noteworthy community partner through its efforts in support of local charities including the Southern Tier Food Bank, The Goodwill Theater, numerous veterans groups and senior citizens organizations.

It is through this type of significant economic development, tourism collaboration and community support that we strongly encourage the selection committee to confer a full gaming license to Tioga Downs in Nichols, NY.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Laury Ellen Poland'.

Laury Ellen Poland  
President

Finger Lakes Wine Country Tourism Marketing Association  
1 West Market Street, Suite 203 | Corning, NY 14830  
Office: 607.936.0703 | Mobile: [REDACTED] | Toll Free: 800.813.2958  
[lpoland@fingerlakeswinecountry.com](mailto:lpoland@fingerlakeswinecountry.com)



RESOLUTION NO. 01-14

APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP TO THE FINGER LAKES WINE  
COUNTRY TOURISM MARKETING ASSOCIATION

WHEREAS: The Tioga County Local Development Corporation, d.b.a. the Tioga County Tourism Office, is the Tourism Promotion Agency (TPA), not-for-profit corporation that develops and implements a tourism promotion and marketing program for the County; and

WHEREAS: Tioga County is considered to be a Gateway to the Finger Lakes; and

WHEREAS: The Tioga County Local Development Corporation is desirous of entering into a partnership with the Finger Lakes Wine Country Tourism Marketing Association (FLWCTMA); and

WHEREAS: The Finger Lakes Wine Country Tourism Marketing Association (FLWCTMA) was organized in 2000 for the purpose of promoting economic development in the Finger Lakes region of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS: The FLWCTMA believes a unified branding initiative with strategic marketing and promotional programs attracts tourists to the Finger Lakes region and that critical mass affords opportunity by collectively offering the area diverse products; and

WHEREAS: To stimulate the tourism industry in the area the FLWCTMA has developed a long-term program of advertising, promotion, and marketing of the region as a tourist and vacation destination by using market research to guide its efforts and by pooling the resources of multiple public and private stakeholders; and

WHEREAS: The Tioga County Legislature unanimously supports the purpose and efforts of the FLWCTMA; and

WHEREAS: The Tioga County Legislature has issued a Letter of Intent supporting the Tioga County Local Development Corporation partnering with the FLWCTMA with the acceptance of Tioga Downs as a member of the same organization; and

WHEREAS: The Legislature agrees that membership fees can be paid out of the additional hotel motel tax income that will be produced when Tioga Downs is designated as a full casino and that these funds would be available only upon the completion and occupancy of the hotel, therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Tioga County Local Development Corporation hereby apply for membership to the Finger Lakes Wine Country Tourism Marketing Association once above noted conditions have been met.

**Tioga County Local Development Corporation Board of Directors voting:**

L. Tinney	Aye	E. Musgrave	Aye
M. Kiechle	Aye	B. Johnson	Absent
S. Layman	Aye	D. Twigg	Abstain
K. Depew	Aye	L. Engelbert	Aye

**Carried**  
May 1, 2014



TIOGA COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Raymond Case  
Ed Hollenbeck  
Richard L. Huttleston  
Tracy Monell  
Michael Roberts  
Martha C. Sauerbrey  
William H. Standinger III  
Loretta A. Sullivan  
Dale N. Weston

CHAIR  
Martha Sauerbrey

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County Office Building – 56 Main Street – Owego, New York 13827 – Telephone (607) 687-8240  
Fax (607) 687-8232 – Website: [www.tiogacountyny.com](http://www.tiogacountyny.com)

April 24, 2014

Tom Osiecki, General Manager  
Tioga Downs  
2384 West River Road  
Nichols NY 13812

Dear Mr. Osiecki:

Thank you for the presentation made to the Tioga County Legislature with regard to the Finger Lakes Wine Country Tourism Marketing Association. As we have already indicated by way of resolution, the Tioga County Legislature backs Tioga Downs's application to the State of New York for the Southern Tier Region gaming license.

In addition, the current Tioga County Legislature strongly supports Tioga County Tourism joining the Finger Lakes Wine Country Tourism Marketing Association with the acceptance of Tioga Downs as a member of the same organization.

The Legislature agrees that membership fees can be paid out of the additional hotel motel tax income that will be produced when Tioga Downs is designated as a full casino. These funds would be available only upon the completion and occupancy of the hotel.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Martha C. Sauerbrey".

Martha C. Sauerbrey, Chair  
Tioga County Legislature



December 19, 2013

LeeAnn Tinney, Director  
Tioga County Economic Development & Planning  
56 Main Street  
Owego, NY 13827

**RE: SUPPORT OF AWARD OF CASINO LICENSE TO  
TIOGA DOWNS CASINO, NICHOLS, NY**

Dear LeeAnn:

Tioga County Tourism supports the expansion of casino gaming at Tioga Downs in Nichols, NY. This award for the one available casino license in the Eastern Southern Tier area is well deserved and crucial to the effective economic and tourism development in Tioga County.

With a history of significant private investment and dedication, converting a long-time vacant horse track into a fabulous destination, Tioga Downs deserves to be offered this casino license. As a matter of fact, preparations for the expansion of the current facility into a full casino are readied for immediate implementation.

The existence of Tioga Downs has already proven to be successful in attracting people into the region. Here are some important facts to consider:

- Tioga Downs brings in out-of-state money. Because of their proximity to the PA border, many PA residents and visitors are coming up to spend their money here.
- Tioga County's main attraction is Tioga Downs. The casino license would help grow tourism for the county, and expand the opportunities related to attracting new visitors and new opportunities.
- Visitors will continue to travel to other destinations throughout the Finger Lakes region.
- With the expansion, Tioga Downs will draw from the region for additional employment opportunities, directly and indirectly.
- We can create additional packages with other Finger Lakes attractions to keep our visitors here longer.
- Tioga Downs will be offering Finger Lakes wines, craft beers and Farm-to-Market local products, thereby benefitting the agriculture community in the region.



**Support of Award of Casino License to Tioga Downs Casino  
December 18, 2013**

The impact the annual revenue to our local schools and municipalities generated by the expansion of Tioga Downs into a gaming facility would bolster the economy. In 2011, Tioga County was devastated by flooding. The losses the community and businesses endured were staggering, but despite their own issues, Tioga Downs stepped up to help. Tioga Downs has always been a willing and generous partner in serving our local communities and non-profit organizations.

Tioga Downs has been a first rate community partner and we encourage the selection committee to approve their submission.

Sincerely,



Stella Reschke, Director  
Tioga County Tourism