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To Whom It May Concern:

The purpose of this letter is to show support for the Southwest Michigan Building & Construction Trades Council and the negotiated Project Labor Agreement (PLA). I served as the Senior Project Manager during the construction of the FireKeepers Casino in Battle Creek, MI which was completed in August 2009.

A PLA was drafted and approved by the owner, the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi. The Southwest Michigan Building & Construction Trades Council and Clark Construction were also signatory to the PLA. Typically, PLAs are used on projects where high quality construction is desired, that have a difficult construction schedule, that involve multiple trades and where owners desire to address a wide range of local needs.

Prior to the groundbreaking, a committee of representatives from the owner, Southwest Michigan Building Trades Council and Clark Construction was formed. The Tripartite Committee met bi-weekly or as needed to discuss project developments and schedule.

This tripartite process proved to be very effective and as a result, we were able to complete the construction project achieving the quality of work the owner desired, ahead of schedule, within budget and without any lost time injuries. This very impressive accomplishment was due in part to the negotiated terms of the PLA and the skill level and cooperation of the Southwest Michigan Building & Construction Trades Council.

In my opinion, I would recommend any owner contemplate a Project Labor Agreement with the trades in due consideration of the size and scope of their construction project.

Sincerely,

Clark Construction Co.

Duane Wixson  
Senior Project Manager

