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**WELD, WAMPANOAG TRIBE SIGN AGREEMENT FOR  
GAMING AND FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT COMPLEX;  
THOUSANDS OF JOBS FORECAST FOR BRISTOL COUNTY**

NEW BEDFORD -- Governor William Weld and the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head today signed a Memorandum of Understanding for a gaming and family entertainment complex in New Bedford that is expected to create 5,000 to 7,000 jobs in Bristol County.

Surrounded by New Bedford community leaders, labor union officials and members of the Wampanoag tribe, Weld said, "This agreement is going to breathe new life into a proud tribe and into a proud region which has suffered greatly during the recession."

"This is great news for New Bedford, Fall River, and all of Bristol County," said Lt. Governor Cellucci. "This agreement will bring jobs and tourists to Southeastern Massachusetts just when the region most needs a shot of economic life."

New Bedford Mayor Rosemary S. Tierney said, "This is a historic day for New Bedford. There has been overwhelming support for this project at the local level."

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"Governor Weld has enabled New Bedford and Southeastern Massachusetts to begin a process of economic revitalization," Tierney added. "The agreement with the Wampanoag Tribe will not only benefit its members with self-sufficiency and a strong tribal government, it will also provide our residents and those in the entire region with much needed jobs."

The memorandum restricts gaming in Eastern Massachusetts to the New Bedford casino for six years and establishes a \$105 million annual target contribution from the Tribe to the state and to Bristol County communities. The contribution could increase or decrease depending on the level of gross gaming revenues.

Weld noted that the agreement calls for ten percent of the Tribe's contribution to be paid to Bristol County cities and towns.

"New Bedford, Fall River and all of Southeastern Massachusetts will not only get a significant economic boost from this complex, but they'll also get added -- and needed -- help with financing municipal services," said Weld.

Congressman Barney Frank said, "I am pleased that working together we have been able to bring about this important economic benefit for New Bedford and all of Southeastern Massachusetts. I congratulate Mayor Tierney, the New Bedford City Council and Governor Weld for working cooperatively on this project."

The agreement also:

- Establishes a hiring preference at the complex for Tribe members, other Native Americans, and residents of Bristol County;
- Subjects the facility, its managers and employees to strict regulation and oversight, including licensing;
- Gives law enforcement jurisdiction to the Commonwealth and allows the state's law enforcement agencies free access to all areas of the gaming facility, with or without notice to the Tribe; and
- Makes the Tribe's contribution to the state and local communities dependent on there being no other casino in Massachusetts. Excepted from this, if authorized by the Legislature, is one casino in Hampden County, pending voter approval, and up to 400 gaming machines at each of the state's four racetracks.

"From our days as harpooners and steerers aboard those long whaling voyages -- so much a part of New Bedford's early history -- we can now work together to ride the crest of this economic development initiative in the 21st century," said Beverly Wright, Chairperson of the Wampanoag Tribe.

"Although not a panacea for all our economic challenges, a New Bedford casino and theme park, if done well, will bring jobs to a community that is desperate for jobs," said state Senator Mark Montigny. "The Governor and his staff have worked with us to ensure that New Bedford's area needs are paramount in these complex negotiations."

Before the Commonwealth enters into a Tribal-State compact, as required under the federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA), the Tribe must finalize the purchase of the New Bedford

site and acquire the necessary federal approvals. Once these federal approvals are obtained, Weld said he will submit the agreement to the Legislature for approval or rejection in its entirety.

Weld added: "If this entertainment facility on newly-acquired tribal land in New Bedford isn't eventually approved, the result will be the establishment of a casino on Martha's Vineyard, where the Tribe has the right to set it up on their land under IGRA. This would be a lower-grossing casino with many fewer jobs and would fail to provide any economic stimulus to Southeastern Massachusetts."

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## Wampanoag Entertainment Complex Local Community Revenue Sharing

	Casino Gross Revenues (in millions)						
	\$200	\$250	\$300	\$350	\$375	\$400	\$450
Acushnet	\$84,000	\$114,000	\$144,000	\$174,000	\$189,000	\$204,000	\$234,000
Attleboro	\$317,333	\$430,667	\$544,000	\$657,333	\$714,000	\$770,667	\$884,000
Berkley	\$32,667	\$44,333	\$56,000	\$67,667	\$73,500	\$79,333	\$91,000
Dartmouth	\$149,333	\$202,667	\$256,000	\$309,333	\$336,000	\$362,667	\$416,000
Dighton	\$42,000	\$57,000	\$72,000	\$87,000	\$94,500	\$102,000	\$117,000
Easton	\$144,667	\$196,333	\$248,000	\$299,667	\$325,500	\$351,333	\$403,000
Fairhaven	\$112,000	\$152,000	\$192,000	\$232,000	\$252,000	\$272,000	\$312,000
Fall River	\$1,166,667	\$1,583,333	\$2,000,000	\$2,416,667	\$2,625,000	\$2,833,333	\$3,250,000
Freetown	\$60,667	\$82,333	\$104,000	\$125,667	\$136,500	\$147,333	\$169,000
Mansfield	\$98,000	\$133,000	\$168,000	\$203,000	\$220,500	\$238,000	\$273,000
New Bedford	\$1,236,667	\$1,678,333	\$2,120,000	\$2,561,667	\$2,782,500	\$3,003,333	\$3,445,000
North Attleborough	\$177,333	\$240,667	\$304,000	\$367,333	\$399,000	\$430,667	\$494,000
Norton	\$126,000	\$171,000	\$216,000	\$261,000	\$283,500	\$306,000	\$351,000
Raynham	\$60,667	\$82,333	\$104,000	\$125,667	\$136,500	\$147,333	\$169,000
Rehoboth	\$56,000	\$76,000	\$96,000	\$116,000	\$126,000	\$136,000	\$156,000
Seekonk	\$65,333	\$88,667	\$112,000	\$135,333	\$147,000	\$158,667	\$182,000
Somerset	\$88,667	\$120,333	\$152,000	\$183,667	\$199,500	\$215,333	\$247,000
Swansca	\$98,000	\$133,000	\$168,000	\$203,000	\$220,500	\$238,000	\$273,000
Taunton	\$490,000	\$665,000	\$840,000	\$1,015,000	\$1,102,500	\$1,190,000	\$1,365,000
Westport	\$65,333	\$88,667	\$112,000	\$135,333	\$147,000	\$158,667	\$182,000