

AVOYELLES PARISH POLICE JURY
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District 1

TRAVIS FRANKS
District 2

MARK BORREL
District 3

EARNEST ANDERSON
District 4

CLYDE BENSON
District 5

MCKINLEY KELLER
District 6

ALLEN THOMAS
District 7

SAM PEARCE
District 8

JACOB COCO
District 9

JAMEY M. WILEY
SECRETARY-TREASURER

LAURA D. GASPARD
ASSISTANT
SECRETARY-TREASURER

KEVIN P. BORDELON
CIVIL WORKS DIRECTOR

KEITH GREENHOUSE
PARISH SUPERINTENDENT

To: The House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Indigenous People

On behalf of the Avoyelles Parish Police Jury, I am writing to share the profound, positive impact that tribal economic development has on our community. As a life-long resident of Avoyelles, I have observed first-hand how the initiatives by the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana have significantly contributed to the economic, social, and cultural vitality of our region.

Economic development projects led by the Tribe, such as the Paragon Casino Resort, have become pillars of our local economy. Not only did it generate substantial revenue, but also create employment opportunities for hundreds of community members. Currently, the Paragon Casino Resort employs over 700 individuals, offering stable, well-paying jobs that support families and stimulate local economic activity. These jobs are crucial for many, providing a pathway to financial security and professional growth.

The Tunica-Biloxi Tribe also exemplifies a strong commitment to social responsibility. Through generous monetary donations, the Tribe has significantly contributed to our critical infrastructure that benefits the entire parish.

The Tribe's economic ventures serve as a driving force for broader regional development. The Paragon Casino Resort, for example, attracts visitors from across the state and beyond, boosting tourism and supporting local businesses. Hotels, restaurants, and retail establishments in the area benefit from the influx of visitors, creating a ripple effect that stimulates further economic growth and diversification.

The long-term vision and strategic planning demonstrated by the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe will ensure that their economic development initiatives are sustainable and beneficial for future generations. Their approach not only addresses immediate needs but also lays the foundation for continued prosperity and community resilience.

In summary, tribal economic development has a multifaceted and profoundly positive impact on our community. It drives economic growth, provides vital employment opportunities, supports public services, enriches our cultural landscape, and creates a spirit of collaboration and mutual benefit. The Tunica-Biloxi Tribe's dedication to economic and social progress serves as a model of how strategic development can uplift and transform a community.

I am confident that the continued success of the Tribe's economic initiatives will lead to even greater benefits for our community, and I look forward to supporting and celebrating their efforts in the years to come.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Darrell G. Wiley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D".

Darrell G. Wiley

President of the Avoyelles Parish Police Jury