



AVOYELLES

— Parish Schools —

221 Tunica Drive West Marksville, LA. 71351

Karen L. Tutor, Superintendent

Thelma J. Prater, Assistant Superintendent

June 13, 2024

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To Whom It May Concern

I'm writing this letter in support of The Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana. As a lifelong resident and active member of Avoyelles Parish, I have observed and benefited from the impact that the tribal economic development has on our community. They have significantly contributed to the economic, social, and cultural development of our region.

Through the combination of both Tribal and Paragon Casino Resort, they have become the pillars of our local economy. This initiative generates a substantial amount of revenue and employment opportunities for hundreds of community members. Currently, the Paragon Casino Resort employs over 700 employees, offering stable, well-paying jobs that support families and stimulate the local economy.

The Tunica-Biloxi Tribe also exemplifies a strong commitment to philanthropy and social responsibility. Beyond providing job opportunities, the Tribe and Paragon Casino have helped to fund many of our schools' activities such as providing a space for teachers to meet, offering recognition and prizes for teachers during Teachers' Appreciation Week, providing scholarships, funds for needed programs in the schools and assisting to purchase pieces of equipment for our athletic department. We are so grateful for all that the Tribe and Paragon Casino have supported the school system with.

In summary, tribal economic development has a multifaceted and profoundly positive impact on our community. It drives economic growth, provides vital employment opportunities, and supports public services. 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.

Sincerely,

Thelma J. Prater

Assistant Superintendent of Schools