

# How Would Expanding Gaming Harm East Central Minnesota?



“Grand Casino Mille Lacs takes care of us. The casino’s medical and dental coverage, 401k programs, and paid-time-off benefits are better than any other employee benefits in the region.”

– Karl Muller  
Table Games Manager  
Grand Casino Mille Lacs



“Gaming revenues provide the Mille Lacs Band with funds to operate schools, clinics, and other programs that help us take care of our own people. But our people still have unmet needs. We are greatly concerned that a loss of funding would reverse the progress we have worked so hard to make.”

– Marge Anderson  
Chief Executive  
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe

“Since 1997, Grand Casino Hinckley has provided jobs for people with disabilities in Pine County through PHASE. By having meaningful jobs, PHASE participants have reduced their reliance on public assistance and are now paying taxes. Even more importantly, they have enjoyed improved self-esteem and an increase in their personal status in the eyes of their families and society.”

– Lori Koski  
Vocational Coordinator  
PHASE (Pine Habilitation and Supported Employment, Inc.)



“The casino has been instrumental in building a sustainable local economy. Without the casino, home values and tax revenues would plummet, because people would need to go elsewhere to find employment. The entire region would suffer without the success of Grand Casino Mille Lacs and Grand Casino Hinckley.”

– Robbie Sawyer  
Vice President of Slot Operations  
Grand Casino Mille Lacs



“Jobs in the Hinckley area are few and far between. Because many families in the Hinckley area rely on income from the casino, the whole community would be devastated by a loss of jobs at the casino.”

– Cindy Dehkes  
Traffic Coordinator  
Grand Casino Hinckley’s marketing department

“Grand Casinos’ donations have helped us fill gaps in federal and state funding so we can provide essential health care services to the community. They have touched hundreds of lives through their donations, and we are grateful for their commitment to the community.”

– Katie Nelson  
Foundation Manager  
Riverwood Foundation



“Gaming expansion not only jeopardizes good-paying jobs in rural Minnesota, but it also threatens the lifestyle that we enjoy while living and working in the area we call home.”

– Tom Hoppe  
General Accounting Manager  
Grand Casino Mille Lacs



“The success of Grand Casino Mille Lacs and Grand Casino Hinckley has enabled the Mille Lacs Band to bring its people out of poverty and provide opportunities we’d never had before. I had education and career experiences through the Band’s schools and other programs that weren’t available to Indian people from my parents’ generation.”

– Curt Kalk  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe