

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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The Sumner County, Kansas, Board of County Commissioners yesterday voted unanimously to endorse Global Gaming KS, LLC, as a lottery gaming facility manager in the South Central Zone. The endorsement decision followed consideration of the written applications of developers, presentations by developers at an August 10, 2010, hearing, written public comment, and presentation of public comment at an August 17, 2010, hearing.

The Board indicated in its comments at the public meeting that the Global application, seeking to build a casino at Exit 19 of the Kansas Turnpike near Wellington, was outstanding in every respect. The Board did not vote to endorse the remaining two applicants.

Commissioner and Board Chair Jim Newell said: "The Global plan to bring a sport racing facility to Sumner County, along with a hotel and a first-class casino, will jump start economic development. Global has a wealth of experience in the Interstate 35 corridor. They know how to bring customers and ancillary businesses to Sumner County."

Commissioner Garey Martin focused on the strength of Global's plans for infrastructure and the integrity of its constructions plans. "Global has commitments from the City of Wellington to provide sewer and water service with easy hookup to existing lines running to the edge of the Global casino site. Global is committed to build a ramp to allow direct access from the Turnpike to its property. There are no issues with flooding in this area. The site is ready made for a casino and Global is ready to build," Martin said.

Commissioner Eldon Gracy added that the site at Exit 19 is well situated high on a hill and can be seen from a distance by travelers on the Turnpike. "That and the construction of a very large, modern travel plaza at Exit 19 will draw people from the Interstate to the casino and on into town to patronize other area businesses," Gracy said.

All commissioners noted that there is nothing but complete public support for a casino at Exit 19. There are no residential areas nearby. There are no angry neighbors protesting its presence. There are no traffic or other safety issues with the Global site. The commissioners received overwhelming public comment in support of the Global casino and vocal public objection to a casino at Exit 33 near Mulvane.

Global assured the Board that the project at Exit 19 would bring in as much revenue as a project at Exit 33. The commissioners were also impressed with Global's confidence that their project could compete favorably if a tribal gaming facility is later built in Park City, and Global's commitment to complete the process and finish this project. "This is all about economic development for all of Sumner County," Newell said. "The Global proposal is the only one that delivers the kind of jobs and growth this county and its citizens need."