



## In The News...

Buffalo News – 5/10/06

### **Politicians mixed up on Bass Pro, casino**

Toronto, Pittsburgh and Auburn all have Bass Pro stores. Yet, somehow, a new Bass Pro store in Buffalo is supposed to attract 4 million visitors every year? Where will these visitors be coming from?

It stands to reason that the majority of Bass Pro's clients will be from the immediate area, especially given the tourism disadvantage we face against Toronto and Pittsburgh, and that people from central and eastern New York can more easily head to Bass Pro's Auburn location.

In exchange for drawing a largely local crowd, Bass Pro is receiving \$67 million in public funds to help build its project and for related infrastructure projects. Bass Pro is willing to invest \$66 million – less than what it is getting in public money – to create 300 to 400 jobs and bring people into downtown.

Meanwhile, the Seneca Nation is ready to invest \$125 million of its own money to build a project that will create 1,000 new jobs and give those who travel to gambling establishments in Canada a reason to come downtown. The Senecas want improvements made to the city's infrastructure to create additional development, critical mass and more jobs, but now nobody can seem to find the money.

You just have to love Western New York politics!

Mark Kaczanowski

*Buffalo*