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ERIE COUNTY NO LONGER PART OF EFFORT TRYING TO BLOCK SENECA BUFFALO CREEK CASINO *President John joins County Executive for announcement*

BUFFALO, NY -- Erie County Executive Chris Collins announced on January 3 that he is removing the County as a party to the two ongoing lawsuits in Federal court aimed at stopping the development of the permanent Seneca Buffalo Creek Casino project. He was joined at the announcement by Maurice A. John, Sr., President of the Seneca Nation of Indians.

"Erie County cannot turn its back on an over \$300 million construction project and private investment in the City of Buffalo," Collins said. "This project does offer a considerable opportunity to redevelop the Cobblestone District and attract visitors to downtown."

Scheduled to open in 2010, the \$333 million permanent Seneca Buffalo Creek Casino project will feature a 90,000-square-foot casino and 22-story all-suites hotel designed to five star specifications.

"The County Executive's decision shows that he personally understands the importance of economic development and the role that our planned \$333 million project, with its 1,000 jobs, can play in the rebirth of the regional economy," President John added. "County Executive Collins has chosen not to stand in the way of progress and development, but to embrace it."

Construction on the project is scheduled to begin in the coming weeks. The casino portion is expected to be complete in the spring of 2010, with the hotel opening approximately three months later.