



For Immediate Release:
May 17, 2010

Contact:
Joe Ganley
617-320-0764 (Mobile)
jganley@webershandwick.com

Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Proposes Resort Casino in Fall River *Integrated Resort to Be Built at Site Along Route 24*

Mashpee, MA—The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe today announced that it had reached an agreement with the city of Fall River to develop an integrated resort-style casino. The announcement comes as the Massachusetts Legislature considers a proposal to legalize casino gambling in the Commonwealth.

“The development of a resort-style casino in Fall River presents a unique opportunity not only for the Tribe, but also for the City of Fall River,” said Cedric Cromwell, Tribal Chairman of the Mashpee Wampanoag. “This proposal will bring economic opportunity for the Tribe, and its people, while also directly and indirectly creating thousands of jobs in Fall River during construction and subsequent operation.”

The Tribe’s proposal includes a casino, three hotels, a shopping mall, convention facilities, showroom and spa built on approximately 300 acres of land. The three hotels will be segmented to cater for the casino, convention and spa & leisure market. The project is proposed for a site along Route 24. The Tribe had previously explored developing a casino in Middleboro, but over the past year determined that Fall River would be a more appropriate site.

“We are pleased that we have reached an agreement with the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe to develop this project in our city,” said Fall River Mayor Will Flanagan. “Beyond the thousands of jobs this project will create, it will bring much needed revenue to the City of Fall River to pay for services like public safety, infrastructure improvements, and education. Simply put, it is a great project for the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, a great project for Fall River, and a great project for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.”

Senator Joan Menard (D-Fall River), the Assistant Senate Majority Leader, also praised the project. “This development is a critical step toward economic development for Fall River,” she said. “The project will create thousands of jobs and provide much needed revenue for the City. It is part of an economic plan for Fall River that also includes the development of a biopark. I am excited by what lies ahead for this great city.”

Integrated resorts such as the one the Tribe is proposing are the latest worldwide trend in casino development where major non-gaming attractions such as shopping, entertainment, sports and leisure are combined with gaming to create higher patronage and revenues for the development. The Fall River casino would be the first integrated resort in the northeast designed with all major facilities within easy reach of each other regardless of weather.

The Tribe has the financial backing of Arkana Ltd., a Malaysian investment group that financed the startups of Foxwoods Resort and Casino in Connecticut in 1992 and the Seneca Niagara Casino in New York in 2002. Arkana is a multi-billion dollar organization with vast experience developing and operating resort casinos.

As a Federally recognized tribe, the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe would have the right to operate gaming once the Commonwealth passes legislation allowing casinos. Under the Tribe's proposal, it will work with state officials to develop a contract that would provide revenue to the State from the casino development.

"We look forward to developing an agreement with the State that benefits the Tribe and its people, the City of Fall River and the Commonwealth," said Cromwell. "Once that is completed, we stand ready to put shovels in the ground."

About the Mashpee Wampanoag

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, known as the People of the First Light, has inhabited Massachusetts for more than 12,000 years. Today, the Mashpee are one of only two tribes in Massachusetts to be recognized by the U.S. Government as a sovereign nation.

##