



Forest County Potawatomi Community

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For More Information

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Forest County Potawatomi Community Acquires Stake in Commerce State Bank of West Bend, Wisconsin Tribe Continues Investments in Wisconsin Businesses

[Crandon, WI] – The Forest County Potawatomi Community (FCPC) has acquired a stake in Commerce State Bank of West Bend, Wisconsin.

The investment from the Tribe came as part of a successful capital raise campaign by Commerce State Bank. The initiative raised \$11 million from multiple investors of common equity to support its growth and potential acquisitions by fortifying its capital position.

“This investment from the Potawatomi will allow us to continue executing our strategy to better serve communities and businesses in Wisconsin,” said Commerce State Bank CEO, Chairman and co-founder Joe Fazio. “We are very excited to work with a trusted partner like the Forest County Potawatomi.”

The Potawatomi will be a minority shareholder in Commerce State Bank, holding less than a 10 percent stake in the business. The investment is being done directly by the Tribe and not through any of its subsidiary businesses.

“As we’ve experienced first-hand, gaming revenues can be volatile so it’s important that the Tribe find new ways to diversify our businesses. The Potawatomi will continue to look for sound investments that will benefit both the communities where we operate and the Tribe,” said Forest County Potawatomi Chairman Gus Frank.

The investment in Commerce State Bank is latest way that the Potawatomi are expanding their economic development opportunities outside of gaming.

In 2002, the Tribe established the Potawatomi Business Development Corporation (PBDC) as the economic development and income diversification business of the Forest County Potawatomi Community. Today, PBDC is a growing company with expertise and success in a variety of industries including hospitality, real estate development, technology and federal contracting.

This includes Greenfire Management Services, LLC – a construction management and owner’s representative firm headquartered in Milwaukee. Founded in 2010, the company’s project portfolio already includes multiple large-scale commercial and residential developments; including the \$150

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million, 381-room Potawatomi Hotel and the \$20 million Echelon at Innovation Campus development in Wauwatosa.

Another venture is Redhawk Network Security, an information security solutions specialist based in Bend, Oregon. 100% tribal-owned by the Potawatomi Business Development Corporation, Redhawk specializes in network security management for the Financial, Healthcare, Government, Utilities and Indian Gaming industries throughout the United States. Redhawk Network Security was recently recognized by Cybersecurity Ventures as one of the 500 Hottest Security Companies in the world.

Potawatomi Business Development Corporation's subsidiaries also include the Data Holdings data center in Milwaukee. Opened in 2013, this data center is the only Tier III enhanced facility in Wisconsin and the only sovereign data center in the United States.

The Tribe was also a founding member of the Forest County Economic Development Partnership – a public / private partnership which aims to increase economic development by supporting small businesses, facilitating community projects, and attracting new industries to Forest County (Wisconsin) all while maintaining the area's natural resources, heritage, and cultural traditions.

About Commerce State Bank

Opened in August 2005, Commerce State Bank is a full-service state chartered bank headquartered in West Bend, with additional full-service offices in Cedarburg, Elm Grove, Sheboygan and a Loan Production Office in Saukville. Today the bank has total assets of more than \$400 million, making it the 53rd largest bank in the State of Wisconsin. It has preferred lender status with the Small Business Administration (SBA). Commerce State Bank is dedicated to being helpful to the community through its Random Acts of Commerce program.

About the Forest County Potawatomi Community

The Forest County Potawatomi Community is a federally recognized Native American tribe headquartered in Crandon, Wisconsin with a membership of approximately 1,400. The Tribe employs roughly 3,500 people in Wisconsin through their government and business operations, which include a Health & Wellness Center in Crandon, hotel casinos in Milwaukee and Carter, Wisconsin and subsidiary companies owned by the Potawatomi Business Development Corporation – the economic development and income diversification business of the FCPC. For more information on the FCPC, please visit www.fcpotawatomi.com

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