

Wisconsin casino expansion may benefit Florida tribe

Written by Administrator

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This artist's rendering provided by The Menominee Nation shows the tribe's proposed casino at the site of the former Dairyland Greyhound Dog Track in Kenosha. (Photo: AP/Menominee Nation/The Kenosha News)

A proposed partnership between Hard Rock International and the impoverished Menominee Tribe of Wisconsin would funnel millions in profits back to Florida if Gov. Scott Walker approves the plan to open an \$808 million casino complex in Kenosha.

Details of the agreement between the Menominee and Hard Rock — including the percentage of profits that the Florida Seminoles tribe would receive — have not been made public. The Menominee tribe is awaiting final approval for the casino from Gov. Scott Walker, who has until Feb. 19 to announce a decision. The partnership would mark the first time any casino project in Wisconsin would be managed by an out-of-state tribe.

"The question becomes, do we really want that revenue from the casino...being sent to Florida?" asked Richard Monette, a University of Wisconsin-Madison law professor. "That percentage becomes key, and those factors should be public."

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