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**CONTACT: Donald Flanagan: 617.695.8949**

**Why Choose? Fall River Can Have Both the Destination Resort Style Casino and Bio-Tech Park**

Boston, MA ... Today, members of the Aquinnah Wampanoag Gaming Corporation urged Massachusetts elected officials to select their casino site in Fall River which will allow southeastern Massachusetts to have both the bio-tech part and the casino.

"There is no need to choose between the bio-tech park and the casino. Our shovel ready site will not force the state to forfeit the time, energy and money spent in developing a bio-tech park," stated Naomi Carney, Chairperson of the Aquinnah Wampanoag Gaming Corporation. "Our proposal allows Massachusetts to have the best of both possible worlds. The state will not only receive revenue from the casino and grow jobs, but it will also continue to become the region's leader in bio-tech industry."

As some may recall, for over 15 years, the Aquinnahs have been pursuing opportunities to promote economic development and self sufficiency with gaming. In accordance to the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (Public Law 100-497 October 17, 1988 100<sup>th</sup> Congress), the Aquinnahs entered into a compact agreement with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts with Governor William Weld in 1995 and later reaffirmed the agreement with Governor Paul Cellucci for a site in Fall River none the less.

Since 2007, the Aquinnah Wampanoag Gaming Corporation has sited and coordinated plans for the development of a Class III Resort Casino on tribally controlled lands in Fall River. Presently, the Aquinnah have 240 acres in Fall River under contract for development of a casino and potentially also address the other needs of the Tribe such as other economic development and affordable housing.

The Aquinnah Wampanoag Tribe is the only federally recognized tribe that holds land in trust in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

"We have continued to work diligently for more than a decade to develop a casino that will have the highest positive impact for the community and generations to come," stated Cheryl Andrews-Maltais, Chairwoman of the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head Aquinnah. "Our people live and work in the greater Fall River New Bedford area and throughout Southeastern Massachusetts. We are part of this community and it is part of us. It is not just a site on a long list of various proposals. Because of our long standing history with the area, we are fully committed to promoting a stronger and more prosperous community."

Unlike other proposals, the Aquinnah have pledged to use domestic funding which means their revenue will be staying locally rather than heading overseas.

"Our plan is the most economically friendly proposal for the people of Massachusetts," added Carney.

***AQUINNAH CASINO = DOUBLE THE JOBS FOR MA***

**A FEDERALLY ACKNOWLEDGED TRIBE**