**For Immediate Release Contact: Judi Henckel 269.729.5151**

Date: February XX, 2018

**NHBP Contributes a Record $XXXX Million to Benefit the** **State Of Michigan and Local Communities**

(Battle Creek, Mich.) — The Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi (NHBP), owners of FireKeepers Casino Hotel in Battle Creek, Mich., announced today that it has established its second consecutive new annual record, with payments of over $22.5 million in payments to the State of Michigan and the FireKeepers Local Revenue Sharing Board (FLRSB). The payment to the State of Michigan totals more than $XXXX million, an increase of XXXX percent over the 2017 payment, while the payment to the FireKeepers Local Revenue Sharing Board (FLRSB) of over $5.4 million is 2.65 percent higher than one year ago. This brings the total monies NHBP has contributed to the State of Michigan to over $107 million and $37.65 million to the FLRSB and creates a combined contribution which exceeds $144.76 million since FireKeepers Casino Hotel opened in Aug. 2009.

Two checks were presented from the NHBP today; with the first one for $17,127,304 presented to David Nyberg, Deputy Legal Counsel & Tribal Liaison, State of Michigan. To the FLRSB Chairman xxxxxx for $5,406,826. The second check for $5,406,826 was presented to for $17,127,304 was presented to the state of Michigan, with xxxxxxxxx in attendance to accept the check. FLRSB Chairman Greg Moore of Athens Township.

The funds distributed are part of a negotiated agreement between the NHBP and the state for 2016 operations at the NHBP’s FireKeepers Casino Hotel, located in Battle Creek, Mich.

Quote Options for Jamie Stuck V1

“The commitment of the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi to the State of Michigan and our Local Revenue Sharing Board is stronger than ever, with our largest single distribution to date of over $XXXX million dollars,” announced Jamie Stuck, Tribal Council Chairman of the NHBP. “We take great pride in a successful and growing partnership with the local community and the State, and look to the future with optimism and enthusiasm as we strive to revitalize the local community, create quality jobs, and assist a multitude of charitable organizations and sponsor events. Our newest positive impact on the community is the Fire Hub Restaurant in downtown Battle Creek, which combines an exciting restaurant and bakery concept with an adjacent dignified Food Pantry, operated in conjunction with the Food Bank of South Central Michigan. We also sponsor major events such as the FireKeepers Casino 400 at Michigan Speedway and the FireKeepers Casino Hotel Championship golf tournament at Battle Creek Country Club.”

V2

“The Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi and FireKeepers Casino Hotel are proud to present one of the finest gaming and entertainment experiences in the country. Today, we fulfill our contractual obligations with our largest single yearly contribution of more than $XX million dollars,” announced Jamie Stuck, Tribal Council Chairman of the NHBP. “The tribe and over 1700 full time team members have been dedicated to the surrounding area and community from day one and we take pride in attracting visitors and new business to Calhoun County. FireKeepers Casino hires local workers for quality jobs, awards substantial local vendor contracts and continues to support nearby charities such as S.A.F.E Place Women’s shelter, the Food Bank of South Central Michigan and Native American causes.”

V3

“Live local and give local is the economic goal of the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi and the management team at FireKeepers Casino Hotel. Today, we sustain our commitment to the community with disbursements that will surpass life-to-date contributions of $XXX million dollars to the State of Michigan, and $XX million dollars to the FireKeepers Local Revenue Sharing Board. Our Tribe takes great pride in revitalizing the Calhoun County region and the State of Michigan through our actions, and this distribution is just one example of our continued partnership," stated Jamie Stuck, Tribal Council Chairman of the NHBP. “Our newest positive impact on the community will be the late April debut of the Fire Hub Restaurant in downtown Battle Creek, which combines an exciting restaurant/bakery concept with a dignified Food Pantry, operated in conjunction with the Food Bank of South Central Michigan. The tribe and FireKeepers Casino Hotel have been dedicated to the surrounding area and community from the beginning and take pride in hiring local workers, awarding local contracts and continuing to support local charities such as S.A.F.E Place Women’s shelter and, the Food Bank of South Central Michigan and many critical Native American causes.”

In addition to the distribution of $XX million, the NHBP’s FireKeepers Casino Hotel has contributed significantly to Michigan’s economy in 2017. Just this past December, FireKeepers Casino Hotel achieved another major financial milestone of reaching $XXX million in cumulative paid labor costs that includes total wages, health insurance, 401(k), and incentives to the 1,700 total full and part-time team members.

A 2016 Compact Amendment between NHBP and the State of Michigan provides for a payment of up to $500,000 per year of state revenue sharing payments to a newly created Michigan Native American Heritage Fund. Use of funds deposited in the Michigan Native American Heritage Fund will be managed by a board that can award funds to local governments, public and private schools, colleges and universities to defray the costs of projects that promote positive relationships with and understanding of the history and role of Michigan’s Indian tribes and Native Americans in the state. Projects can include covering the cost associated with schools replacing or revising mascots or imagery that might be considered offensive to Native Americans with more culturally appropriate representations or new mascots/logos.

The NHBP has made a concentrated effort to focus FireKeepers Casino Hotel on supporting local businesses and suppliers and extend contributions to the local economy beyond the FLRSB and the distribution to the state. The Tribe’s commitment to local spending has resulted in awarding contracts in excess of $XX million within the state of Michigan in 2017.

•Greater Calhoun County Region $5.9 million (Calhoun, Jackson, Branch)

•West Michigan $9.1 million (Allegan, Barry, Berrien, Grand Traverse, Kalamazoo, Kent,   
 Muskegon, Ottawa, Van Buren)

•Lansing Area $12.5 million (Ingham, Eaton, Clinton)

•Metro Detroit $2.6 million (Wayne)

•Other $8.9 million (Chippewa, Genesee, Gratiot, Ionia, Livingston, Macomb, Manistee, Marquette, Mecosta, Midland, Monroe, Newaygo, Oakland, Saginaw, St. Clair, Shiawassee, Washtenaw, Wexford)

The check presented to the FLRSB is the eighth distribution since the first distribution in Feb. 2010, when the NHBP presented a check to the FLRSB for nearly $2 million. 2018 marks the fourth consecutive year where annual payments have exceeded $5 million. The $XX,XXX,XXX funds distributed to date have benefited the following groups:

• Harper Creek Community Schools

• Calhoun County Road Commission

• Emmett Township

• Calhoun County

• Calhoun Intermediate School District

• Kellogg Community College

• Willard Library

• Athens Township

• Marshall Township

• City of Marshall

• City of Battle Creek

• Athens Area Schools

• Village of Athens

• Battle Creek Public Schools

• Marshall Public Schools

• Lakeview School District

• Pennfield Schools

###

About The Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi

There are nearly 1,400 NHBP Tribal Members. NHBP’s primary Indian Health and Bureau of Indians Affairs Service Area covers members in Allegan, Barry, Branch, Calhoun, Kalamazoo, Kent and Ottawa counties. The Tribe’s administrative office is located at the Pine Creek Indian Reservation in Athens Township, with a satellite office in Grand Rapids, Michigan to better serve Members. For more information visit: [www.nhbpi.com](http://www.nhbpi.com)