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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**MAYOR LOOKS FORWARD TO WORKING COLLABORATIVELY  
TO IMPROVE SENATE BILL 66**

**Gary, Indiana**-Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson released a statement following the introduction of Indiana Senate Bill 66 entitled Economic Development in Gary. Senate Bill 66 speaks to the move of Gary casino licenses out of Buffington Harbor to other locations to allow for economic development along the city's shoreline. It proposes that one license would remain in Gary along 80/94 and the second license would move to another location.

The Bill also proposes the transfer of Buffington Harbor land to a Trans-Modal Compact which would be governed by a Compact board. The mayor expressed grave concern about the composition of the board. "The Compact board composition proposed in the first draft of the Bill is not acceptable. This is not reflective of how I would like to work with the state on behalf of the citizens of our city. ," stated Mayor Freeman-Wilson.

The mayor said the city is in active negotiations with Senator Mishler, the Bill's author. "I look forward to working with our own Senator Eddie Melton and the Bill's author to make the Bill more reflective of a partnership that will benefit the citizens of Gary," said Freeman-Wilson.

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