

# Indiana Zoos

Accredited by  
Association of  
Zoos and Aquariums



Indiana's four accredited zoos – in Evansville, Fort Wayne, Indianapolis, and South Bend – contribute greatly to their communities and citizens. You may be surprised at our collective impact.

You may also be surprised to learn that last year's stimulus bill included language specifically rendering United States zoos and aquariums ineligible for federal monies. Frankly, this exclusion puzzled us, as we expected no different treatment than other museums, which were not excluded. While we understand and support the need for fiscal responsibility and accountability, we are concerned that a misperception may exist about the importance of our institutions to our respective communities and the State of Indiana. Make no mistake; our four institutions are valuable educational partners with schools, cherished recreational venues for your constituents, and important economic drivers in the state. Consider the following:

#### Educational Impact

- Over 155,900 school students visited our zoos on classroom field trips in 2009.
- Our zoos provided outreach programming to over 57,600 students in school classrooms in 2009.
- In 2009, Indiana zoos provided special classes and workshops to an additional 15,600 students.

#### Recreational Venues

- Over 2 million guests visited our facilities in 2009, that's more people than the combined attendance of all professional sporting events held in the State (including NFL, NBA and the Indianapolis Motor Speedway).
- Over 250,000 people are members of our institutions. They not only cherish us as important parts of their family life, but they believe fervently in our mission.

#### Economic Impact

- In 2009 our institutions collectively spent \$32.6 million to operate our facilities, with over half of those funds going into wages and benefits for Hoosiers.
- In 2009 our four zoos invested an additional \$22.2 million in capital improvements, with the majority of those funds going into the Indiana economy.
- Collectively, the direct and indirect economic impact of our four institutions in 2009 was \$159 million.

By way of this letter we simply wanted to remind you what we mean to the State of Indiana and your constituents, and we appreciate your continued advocacy against anti-zoo and aquarium provisions.

Handwritten signature of Jim Anderson in black ink.

Jim Anderson,  
Director, Ft. Wayne Children's Zoo

Handwritten signature of Amos Morris in black ink.

Amos Morris,  
Director, Mesker Park Zoo  
& Botanic Garden

Handwritten signature of Michael Crowther in black ink.

Michael Crowther,  
President, Indianapolis Zoo

Handwritten signature of Terrence DeRossa in black ink.

Terrence DeRossa,  
Zoo Director, Potawatomi Zoo