



Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board



WRITTEN COMMENT TO BE INCLUDED IN THE EVIDENTIARY RECORD OF THE PUBLIC INPUT HEARINGS

I request that the following comments be made part of the public input hearing record and considered by the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board prior to awarding licenses for slot operators:

Name: Nancy Watkins

Address: _____

Telephone _____

Organization, if any: _____

Employer: Self

COMMENTS: (Please use second page if more space is required)

To whom It May Concern:

I am strongly opposed to awarding gaming licenses. Gambling attracts crime and leads to unsightly developments. It is a regressive tax — it entices money from the poor.

Look to communities that have developed and prospered — Cambridge + Arlington, Mass.; Santa Fe, NM; Pittsburg, Kan; Seattle; Lawrence, KS;

and the arts that make communities
beautiful and thriving.

Now look at the Atlantic City
and the many Native American

communities. Terrible schools?
The locals are still poor and the

casino operators take the money
and run.

There is no quick fix to
economic improvement -
gambling is not the answer.

~~CONCLUSION: (Please see around page 1 for more information)~~



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I request that the following comments be made part of the public input hearing record and considered by the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board prior to awarding licenses for slot operators:

Name: Pastor Bill Graham

Address

Telepho

Organization, if any: Madisonville Christian Church

Employer: Madisonville Christian Church

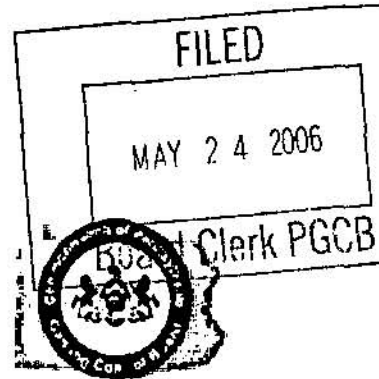
COMMENTS: (Please use second page if more space is required)

I am opposed to gambling of any form being brought into our communities in Pennsylvania. It is evident that where gambling has come into an area other negative elements also have come with it. Gambling contradicts

positive family and community values that are necessary to promote a wholesome and desirable environment for the family and businesses to thrive in a way that is in keeping with the Judeo-Christian principles that our American society was built upon. May we stand against



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I request that the following comments be made part of the public input hearing record and considered by the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board prior to awarding licenses for slot operators:

Name: GLORIA HOCKER

Address: _____

Telephone _____

Organization, if any: NFA

Employer: _____

COMMENTS: (Please use second page if more space is required)

WE DON'T WANT OR NEED A CASINO IN THIS VICINITY, BECAUSE WE HAVE STRUGGLED TO KEEP OUR RESIDENTIAL AREA FREE OF ALL CLUBS AND SUCH WE HAVE BEEN PROMISED; NO NOISE, NO MESS, NO PUBLIC NUISANCES, AND NEVER GOT IT, UNTILL WE GOT RID OF THE CLUBS, AND WE DON'T NEED THE EXTRA TRAFFIC.

I, GLORIA HOCKER verify that the information contained in this written comment is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Samuel Hodge 6/18/08

Act 71 and free-standing casinos in PA are unconstitutional.

Our Governor and legislators violated both the spirit of the law and the letter of the law in passing Act 71 without referendum to the voters. They denied us the right to vote for or against, voted themselves a personal interest in the gaming revenues, passed the entire fraud off as tax reform, wrongly inserted the Supreme Court into administrative agency business, interfered in our home rule county's rights, and created a new administrative bureaucracy which will cost the taxpayers millions, even billions, of dollars in the coming years. I believe we have only one chance to stop this process. It's now or never!

*The voters of Pa were denied the right of initiative and referendum as defined in Art IX, Sect 4 of the PA Constitution. No referendum was placed on the ballot for the voters to decide whether or not gambling, which will greatly change the face and character of our state, should be legalized. This is an egregious misuse of power by the Governor and legislature, which erodes "public confidence in the system of representative government" as defined in Act 71m Sect 1103, Subsec 11.

*Act 71 is the "PA Race Horse Development and Gaming Act" and is intended to "enhance live horse racing, breeding programs, entertainment and employment in this Commonwealth." And it is to "positively assist the commonwealth's horse racing industry, support programs intended to foster and promote horse breeding and improve the living and working conditions of personnel who work and reside in and around the stable and backside areas of racetracks." (Sect. 101 of Act 71). There will be no horse racing in Bethlehem where Sands wants to put a casino. The act was not intended for this.

*"Declaration of Rights", Article I, PA Constitution protects "inherent and inalienable rights, among which are those of enjoying and defending life, liberty, of acquiring, possessing and protecting property and reputation, and of pursuing their own happiness." "If a majority of the people of a community do not want gambling and the changes it will absolutely bring, they should be able to refuse to host gambling casinos."

*Any legislative member who has a personal or private interest in any measure or bill proposed or pending before the General Assembly...shall not vote thereon." Since the Legislature voted itself a 1% interest in the gambling industry, NONE were able to vote to pass this act, but they did so anyway. (Art III, Sect 13)

*The General Assembly "shall not pass any local or special law (1) regulating the affairs of counties, cities, townships, wards, boroughs, or school districts." (Art III, Sect E, Subsection 32). Northampton County and Bethlehem should have the right to say "yes" or "no" to hosting casinos.

*"The supreme executive power shall be vested in the Governor, who shall take care that the laws be faithfully executed..." (Art IV, Sect 2). The Governor swore to uphold the Constitution, then pushed legalized gambling through without any input with the taxpayers. This was done in the same manner as the illegal pay raise.

"The Supreme Court shall be vested with exclusive appellate jurisdiction...(and) shall affirm all final order, determinations or decisions of the Board..." (Sect 1204, Act 71).

By involving the Supreme Court in the legislative and administrative agency processes, there is no regard for separation of branches of government and no appeal for grievances, which is in violation of the right to appeal lower court decisions. This starts at the top.

*The Gaming Control Board has already proven to be in violation of Sect 1202, Subsection (B), subsection (15) of the law because it has named members with questionable ties and a relative of one member who dropped his girlfriend out a window and killed her. The law refers to the "good character, honesty and integrity and is a person whose prior activities, criminal record, if any, reputation, habits and associations do not pose a threat to public interest..." The Board is another bureaucratic layer which will only cost the taxpayers more, especially because it has very broad powers AND all members and

employees of the Board automatically receive pensions and retirement benefits even though Board members can only serve for six years max.

I propose that the following actions be taken before the General Election in November so that the licenses cannot be awarded, if the electors vote AGAINST legalized slots and casino gambling. Once the licenses are awarded, it is virtually impossible to stop this process. Since the legislators denied us this right before passing this law, implementing the procedures, assembling a board, they need to do so now. I have met very few people who are for gambling as I went to nearly 4,000 homes to date.

1. The right of initiative should be used to get a referendum on the ballot. Petition signatures equaling 5% of the total vote for Governor in 2002 would be required, the signatures must be submitted at least 90 days prior to the GE, and the petition must be statewide. I am asking that any legislator who opposes legalized slots and stand alone gambling in PA assist with this effort. Legal wording must be obtained before getting signatures.
2. A referendum should be placed on the GE ballot asking "Should PA allow free-standing gambling and slots in addition to slots at the horse racetracks across the Commonwealth?" in this or similar language. Let the voters decide.
3. A second question should also be asked, "Do you support or oppose the location of a casino in (Bethlehem etc)?" so the voters of any area targeted for a casino can vote on whether or not they want it in their municipality.
4. Legislators need to stand up and be counted on this issue. They can still undo the wrong if they help citizens with the initiative and referendum. If they do not help, they should be unelected in every contested race statewide. A legislator should draft the initiative for us so we can be sure to work within the Constitutional confines on getting signatures.

The Governor and some legislators are in bed with the gambling industry, and we – the voters and taxpayers! – need to stop this arrogant disregard of citizens' rights NOW! They have forgotten who elected them, and that they serve at our invitation. They are sworn to uphold the Constitution, and they have blatantly refused to do so. We need to demand our rights or lose them forever!

GAMBLING IS NOT TAX REFORM!

Bonnie L. Dodge



Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board



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INSTRUCTIONS

Those who cannot attend or speak at the public input hearings may submit written comments for inclusion in the evidentiary record that will have a weight equal to testimony presented in person. The comment-submission form is found on the following pages of this document.

People who submit written comments will have until June 2, 2006, to send their comments by mail to the Gaming Control Board for inclusion in the evidentiary record.

The mailing address for written comments is:

Office of the Clerk
Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board
PO Box 69060
Harrisburg, PA 17106

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I request that the following comments be made part of the public input hearing record and considered by the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board prior to awarding licenses for slot operators:

Name: Bill Baum

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Organization, if any: _____

Employer: R.H. SHEPPARD

COMMENTS: (Please use second page if more space is required)



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I request that the following comments be made part of the public input hearing record and considered by the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board prior to awarding licenses for slot operators:

Name: Lester & LARA TITLOW

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Organization, if any: _____

Employer: Retired

COMMENTS: (Please use second page if more space is required)

We don't feel gambling improves anything! If the TRUTH were known it hasn't improved any of the existing previous gambling enterprises!