


Comments: Page 2 (continued)

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

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Written Testimony of Senator Tomlinson

Philadelphia Park Slots License

May 12, 2006

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of granting a license to Philadelphia Park for both the conditional license as well as the permanent license.

Pennsylvania's new Gaming Act is good news for everyone who cares about lowering property taxes, stimulating economic development, spurring the construction industry and creating permanent, good-paying jobs.

And Pennsylvanians can be proud that our Gaming Act, of which I was a lead sponsor, is one of the toughest gaming enforcement and licensing laws in the nation. The board is to be congratulated.

Philadelphia Park has served as a valuable employer and a community leader in Bucks County for 16 years. Philadelphia Park is a community center that is home to many people who serve the thoroughbred industry. While the safety and reliability of

Philadelphia Park and its amenities have attracted a number of quality horsemen and patrons over the years, more diverse gaming in neighboring states has had a crippling effect on Pennsylvania's horseracing industry. The average daily purse at our track is less than \$150,000, while tracks in Delaware can pay more than \$250,000.

Even with its sterling reputation and strong, steady operations, this competitive disadvantage posed a major threat to the future of Philadelphia Park, as some of the best horses are being lured to tracks in neighboring states by the promise of richer purses. The track's first-rate reputation in the community and the diligent individuals who work at this racetrack were the main reasons why I sought to provide expanded gaming to racetracks to preserve this industry. I have been a strong advocate for the passage of slots at the racetrack for over a decade, and I was proud to author the amendment that finally authorized slot machine gaming in the Commonwealth last July.

With passage of the gaming act, average daily purses at the track could climb as high as \$400,000, erasing the competitive disadvantage that has stressed the track in recent years. Additional

slots revenue will finance health and pension benefits for owners, trainers, their employees and families. Bringing slots to Philadelphia Park will also guarantee a substantial annual investment in building, renovating and maintaining track facilities like barns, manure collection systems and other maintenance issues. These financial incentives will guarantee that the caliber of horses at Philadelphia Park will continue to improve, and it will ensure that those already working at the track can expect a better and more profitable work environment.

In addition to preserving the horseracing industry, expanded gaming will be a valuable economic development tool in the community. Slots will bring more jobs and, more importantly, *quality* jobs to our area. Statewide, slot machine gaming will provide approximately \$1.3 billion in new personal income and an additional \$2.5 billion in economic output. In addition, slots will have a ripple effect on other industries in the region, as outside visitors to the track will bring enhanced revenues for many of our area businesses. Slot machine gaming is a win-win situation for both the track and the community.

The reputation and fitness of the applicant is one of the Gaming Board's principal concerns when granting these licenses, and I can

assure you that the track operator at Philadelphia Park is an honest and trustworthy individual. He is willing to roll up his sleeves and tackle this new venture with a vision for the betterment of horse racing and the gaming world without compromising the track's reputation and standing in the community. I am confident that he will be able to integrate slots into Philadelphia Park with the same quality, professionalism and integrity we have come to expect over the past 16 years.

I ask you to consider all of these factors when making your decision on granting a license to Philadelphia Park. Bringing slots to this racetrack will be a valuable economic benefit for the community, and I have every confidence that the staff and management of Philadelphia Park will do everything that is necessary to ensure an honest and successful operation in Bucks County.

Thank you.



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 slots operators:

Name: JAMES S. PAPPAS

Address:

Telephone: _____

Organization, if any: COUNCIL ON COMPULSIVE GAMBLING OF PENN

Employer: SAME AS ABOVE

COMMENTS: (Please use reverse side if more space is required)

Comments: Page 2 (continued)

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

5-12-06



COUNCIL ON COMPULSIVE GAMBLING OF PENNSYLVANIA

MARCH 15, 2006

TO: PENNSYLVANIA GAMING CONTROL BOARD;

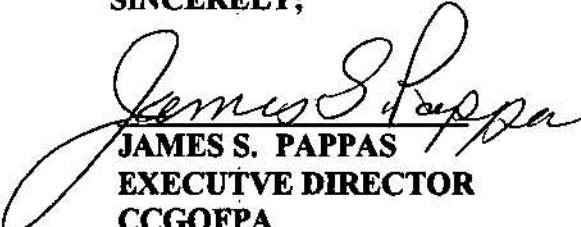
MY NAME IS JAMES S. PAPPAS, AND I SERVE AS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COUNCIL ON COMPULSIVE GAMBLING OF PENNSYLVANIA, A NON-PROFIT AGENCY WHOSE MISSION IS TO SERVE AS A PREVENTION, EDUCATION, TRAINING, TRIAGE AND REFERRAL AGENCY FOR ALL PENNSYLVANIANS', AFFECTED BY COMPULSIVE GAMBLING RELATED ISSUES. THE COUNCIL MAINTAINS A STATEWIDE HELPLINE AT 1800-848-1880.

THE COUNCIL HAS PARTNERED WITH PHILADELPHIA PARK RACETRACK AS PART OF THEIR "RESPONSIBLE GAMING PROGRAM" SINCE 1997. IN THIS PARTNERSHIP, THE COUNCIL PROVIDES YEARLY TRAINING AVAILABLE TO ALL OF THE EMPLOYEES OF PHILADELPHIA PARK RACETRACK, SO THAT THEIR EMPLOYEES CAN BE AWARE OF COMPULSIVE GAMBLING RELATED PROBLEMS. OUR STATEWIDE HELPLINE NUMBER IS ALSO POSTED AT THE RACETRACK, IN ALL OF THEIR OTB'S, IN THEIR DAILY RACING PROGRAM, AND RELATED LITERATURE, SO THAT THEIR CUSTOMERS HAVE ANOTHER RESOURCE IN SEEKING HELP FOR COMPULSIVE GAMBLING BEHAVIOR. OUR WEBSITE: WWW.PACOUNCIL.COM IS LINKED TO THEIR WEBSITE AS ANOTHER WAY FOR THEIR CUSTOMERS TO ACCESS HELP FOR COMPULSIVE GAMBLING ISSUES.

THE COUNCIL APPRECIATES AND VALUES THE COUNTINUED WILLINGNESS OF PHILADELPHIA PARK RACETRACK TO PARTNER WITH US IN ADDRESSING THIS ISSUE.

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT ME AT 1-800-848-1880 SHOULD YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS.

SINCERELY;


**JAMES S. PAPPAS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
CCGOFPA**