



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: Benjamin Long

Address:

Telephone:

Organization, if any:

Employer: self employed

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

To The Gaming Control Board-

I would like to enter the following letter as my public comment on the issue of casinos in Philadelphia.

I am writing to express my opposition to having a casino, or quite possibly two casinos built in my community. I am a homeowner living in the Fishtown section of the city, the neighborhood threatened with two casino proposals.

The fact that Act 71, the bill to allow slot parlors, was passed sneakily in the middle of the night without any input from the communities is very telling. The government was obviously reluctant to hear the people's opinion, knowing full well it would be negative. The government is not representing the will of its people.

I am morally, ethically AND aesthetically opposed to casinos and gambling. I realize that the states are being burdened with a larger financial responsibility and that they are being forced to find money from alternative sources, but I don't believe that casinos are the answer. It is a known fact that with casinos come negative impacts on the quality of life for surrounding areas. There will be increases in crime such as muggings, prostitution, and theft which the police have not been able to control sufficiently as it is. The traffic will become unmanageable; our streets can not handle the volume that is expected, and the effect will spread throughout the neighborhood as the residents find alternate routes to avoid casino traffic. Studies have shown that property values will likely decrease in the surrounding areas. Problems with addiction and poverty already plague our community without adding new sources. The casinos will be 24 hour, 7 day a week nightclubs that will

Comments: Page 2 (continued)

Aesthetically, I have yet to see a casino that is beautiful, or even attractive, since they are sprawling low rises with enormous parking facilities. Taste is not universal, but I am strongly opposed to wasting our city land, especially the waterfront, on what is essentially a big box store with slot machines. There is not even a reason that gambling has to be on a waterfront; it could be anywhere!

As a citizen of Philadelphia, and a resident of Fishtown I am angry that I was not given a choice about having gambling introduced into my society. The waterfront deserves better. It deserves to have insightful planning and an outcome that is beneficial to the residents of the communities it serves, and Philadelphians as a whole. Development has been stalled on the waterfront for years, ~~not because there aren't good solutions, but because everyone has been waiting for the time to cash in.~~ I've been to a lot of other cities that have great waterfront parks that are an asset to the city, and they are not built around casinos. The parks along the Schuylkill are a fantastic asset to Philadelphia, and I don't understand why the Delaware corridor can't be just as nice. We are in a time of unprecedented interest in the waterfront and in Fishtown. There are lots of other options of fostering growth and development in our community that do not have to be based around gambling. We owe it to ourselves and our city to consider them. Casinos are NOT the answer.

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

R D




Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board




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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: BRUCE H KAUDERER

Address: 

Telephone: 

Organization, if any: FISHTOWN/RICHMOND REALTY CO

Employer: _____

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

WE ARE EXCITED ABOUT THE OPPORTUNITY OF ACQUIRING AT LEAST 2 CASINOS ON THE WATER FRONT. PARTICULARLY PINNACLE AND JUGALWASE - IT HAS BEEN LONG OVERDUE THAT PHILA WATER FRONT IS ~~DEVELOPED~~ DEVELOPED, EVERY MAJOR CITY HAS ALREADY ACCOMPLISHED THIS GOAL.

THIS WILL GIVE FISHTOWN & RICHMOND A HUGE IMPACT FOR JOBS & CLOSE PROXIMITY HOUSING.

WE CERTAINLY HOPE MAJOR CONSIDERATION WILL BE GIVEN TO

1. TRAFFIC - RE-DIRECTING I-95 INTO DELAWARE AVE PRIOR TO OPENING
2. ADEQUATE - POLICE SECURITY
3. FOOT TRAFFIC - POSSIBLY OVER DELAWARE AVE
4. SOME CONTRIBUTIONS BY THE CASINOS TOWARD NEEDED

I, BRUCE H. KAUDERER ^{IMPROVE} REAL ESTATE TAX FREEZE TO LONG TERM OWNERS AS TO NO
verify that the information contained in this written comment is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. THEM OUT THE AC



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: Leslie Bunk

Address:

Telephone:

Organization, if any:

Employer:

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

- Jobs & Neighborhood Improvements

- Is money going to go to just Fishtown or will it be disbursed to Port Richmond also? (Port Richmond resident that lives just under a mile away)

- Crime

- Will there be more cops patrolling the waterfront
By car or bike?

- Traffic

- When will new ramps for I-95 be expected?

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



Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board



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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: Stefanie Bunk

Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Organization, if any: Fishtown Neighbor Association Casinos Committee

Employer: Wachovia Bank

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

I am very concerned about the traffic impact on our entire neighborhood. During my 33 years living here along I-95 & Richmond I have experienced many times what happens when there is an accident on I-95. Our streets become congested with traffic avoiding it you have to wait up to 20 minutes just to cross Richmond. Street cars are non-stop until they back up at Lehigh Ave's light. Traffic can be seen going thru any and all side streets. So please can Casino traffic NOT impact us our rush hours are bad. Please push to HAVE I-95 NEW RAMPS BUILT NOW BEFORE WE DO GET CASINOS HERE

Stefanie Bunk

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



**Pennsylvania
Gaming Control Board**



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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: SARAH THORP

Address:

Telephone:

Organization, if any: _____

Employer: _____

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

As a resident of FISHTOWN, I demand that the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board extend the Public Comment Period beyond June 2, 2006, until 30 days prior to the licensing of the proposed slot parlors. I require more time to review the potential impact of the gaming facilities on my community.

Please see comments on (2) attached sheets.

Comments: Page 2 (continued)

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

Arash Thorp

Written Testimony to the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board

By Sarah M. Thorp

June 2, 2006

(Individual Testimony presented orally at the Public Input Hearings, April 11, 2006)

There has not been enough time for adequate public input to the PGCB on important matters that will forever change the quality of life in my neighborhood.

The issues associated with locating slot parlors in Philadelphia's dense, urban, residential neighborhoods are extremely complex. There are virtually no models or precedents to integrate facilities of this type in the United States. Because of this, and because of the lack of complete information from the Category II applicants at this date (June 2), the June 2 deadline for public input is a poor attempt at getting information from individuals and communities who will be the most affected by these facilities. I find it appalling as a resident of Pennsylvania that I have been treated with such disrespect by this gaming control board on this matter.

Many of the residents of Fishtown, myself included, are professionals with Ivy-league educations, and could have valuable input to the board IF WE ARE GIVEN ALL OF THE INFORMATION AND GIVEN ADEQUATE TIME TO RESPOND TO IT. The current timeline has been disgraceful, and has caused me to lose countless nights of sleep, and not finish my thesis in time to graduate in May. I have volunteered to co-chair an extremely capable team of my neighbors in Fishtown (the Casino Committee of the Fishtown Neighbors Association) to submit a report on the impacts of the THREE proposed facilities in our area. I fully support the conclusions outlined in that report, and have the following additional individual comments:

The HSP (Sugarhouse) proposal is extremely damaging to our neighborhood

- I have been studying architecture and historic preservation at the University of Pennsylvania School of Design, and the proposal for the Sugarhouse site is "big-box" architecture hidden underneath kitchy New Jersey shore frosting. It makes no attempt to engage the surrounding neighborhood, and when I questioned Ian Cope, the HSP architect, on his design, he told me that their design was not meant to engage or connect to the surrounding community at all.
- The HSP site is across the street from a residential community. This is an unacceptable place for a casino.
- The HSP site is too small to contain an ambitious project such as this. It has only 17 acres of useable space, and because of this the proposal has stacked the massive 8-story parking garage right next to the main road, Delaware Avenue, and placed its main entrance across from a ONE-WAY, RESIDENTIAL STREET that patrons will use to enter the facility until the I-95/Girard Avenue interchange has new on- and off-ramps.
- The design for the HSP 'temporary facility' is a gaudy, tent-like structure that would also be sited directly adjacent to Delaware Avenue, causing an eyesore on a street that has been experiencing revitalization in the last five years.
- The HSP site, even when the I-95/Girard project is completed, will render Delaware Avenue unusable to the local residents of Fishtown and before the interchange is completed will destroy our residential streets. The massive amount of cars predicted to visit the site each day traveling down Delaware Ave.

will mean that pedestrians like me who cross Delaware Ave every day to access our only park, Penn Treaty Park, will have no access to the riverfront.

- The HSP site plan has virtually no public green space or riverfront access. Most of the eight acres set aside for green space on the site are located inside the 'spaghetti' of traffic lanes required to route cars into the facility. In order to access the riverfront, pedestrians must either walk through the gaming floor, or walk down the side of the eight-story parking garage (which is not directly accessible by a pedestrian crosswalk across Delaware Ave)
- The amenities included in the HSP (Sugarhouse) plan consist of a slots floor, a diner, a buffet, and a fine dining restaurant. There is no attempt made to include any entertainment other than gambling that would benefit the community of Fishtown, which has currently no entertainment facilities for locals such as movie theaters.
- The HSP company has tried to 'buy-off' the local community by making very small token contributions to two local organizations. They have sent checks to the Fishtown Athletic Club (\$2,500) and to Holy Name School (\$5,000). These donations are on the edge of unethical, and do nothing to mitigate the massive potential problems of this site.

The PNK (Pinnacle) proposal is slightly less damaging than the HSP proposal.

- The Pinnacle site is more removed from the residential fabric of Fishtown.
- The Pinnacle site is 33 acres—more than large enough to provide buffers on the edges of the property to prevent necessary facilities such as parking garages to be located adjacent to the streets.
- The Pinnacle proposal includes amenities for locals such as a 14-screen movie theater and a large water feature that will be frozen in the winter and used as an ice skating rink.
- The Pinnacle proposal has space for local vendors such as retail businesses and restaurants
- The Pinnacle proposal has made an attempt to provide public access to the riverfront and adequate publicly accessible green space for recreation.

Please open another public comment period in the Fall of 2006 to allow for the neighborhoods affected by these projects to comment on the final proposals by the Category II applicants when their applications are complete.



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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: Astrid E Rodriguez

Address: 

Telephone: 

Organization, if any: _____

Employer: Wachovia Bank N.A.

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

I think this will bring traffic and more criminality to the city.

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



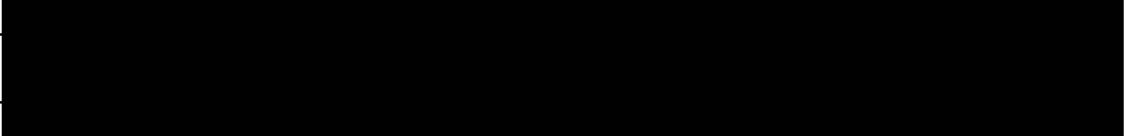
Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board

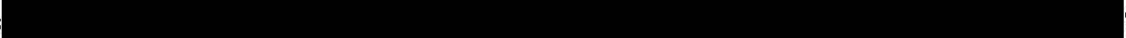


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I request that the following comments be made part of the public input hearing record and considered by the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board prior to awarding licenses for slot operators:

Name: Scott Wheelock

Address: 

Telephone:  nk.

Organization, if any: _____

Employer: self

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

As a resident of Northern Liberties, I demand that the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board extend the deadline for Written Comments beyond June 2, 2006, to a date no more than 60 days prior to the licensing of Philadelphia's Category II facilities. I require more time to review the potential impact of the multiple gaming facilities proposed in and near my community.

In addition, I would like the PA Gaming Control Board to respond publicly to the following concerns:

No casino at Delaware & Spring Garden.
And no second casino at Delaware & Frankford. Do not ruin the quality of life for entire neighborhoods

Comments: Page 2 (continued)

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




Pennsylvania
Gaming Control Board




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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: Lee Wilkinson

Address: 

Telephone: 

Organization, if any: _____

Employer: self

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

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In addition, I would like the PA Gaming Control Board to respond publicly to the following concerns:

No casino at Delaware & Spring Garden,
and no second casino at Delaware &
Frankford.

huge increase in traffic
the ruining of quality of life for
entire neighborhoods.

Comments: Page 2 (continued)

I, Lee Wilkinson 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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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: Katherine Ezis

Address:

Telephone:

Organization, if any:

Employer: Merck & Co., Inc.

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

As a resident of Philadelphia, I demand that the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board extend the deadline for Written Comments beyond June 2, 2006, to a date no more than 60 days prior to the licensing of Philadelphia's Category II facilities. I require more time to review the potential impact of the multiple gaming facilities proposed in and near my community.

In addition, I would like the PA Gaming Control Board to respond publicly to the following concerns:

How does it make sense to put a windowless building on the Penn's Landing waterfront?

Also, I am concerned about the increase of traffic on Callowhill & Spring Garden - did the Casino traffic study take into account the recent development in Northern Liberties and the condos planned on the riverfront?
(in reference to the "Riverwalk" site)

Comments: Page 2 (continued)

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

Katherine Sc



Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board



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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: Paul & Joanne Sherman

Address:

Telephone:

Organization, if any:

Employer:

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

I've lived in Justice since I was 10 yo old & it's always been a quiet peaceful community. Then come the Delaware Ave Night Club Strip. It's my worst nightmare. Everything you can imagine I've seen and then some. I do not want to relive that nightmare again. No one ever think of telling me this won't happen. As a matter of fact I think it will be much worse.

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

(0

I am extremely worried about (traffic ^{9 mo} ^{day} parking on my (and adjacent streets) drinking, drugs including prostitution not to mention ^{ro} + gambling exposure to our children ²⁴⁻⁷. We are a close knit neighborhood and do not wish our children to be exposed to these issues. Further more I do not think that a casino belongs in my (or any) neighborhood. My question to you is would you want to live near or across street from 2 casinos? This question has been asked at many of the meetings and we never seem to get an answer. Ask yourselves this question, put yourselves in a position and I know your answer will

be NO
==
==

Josie Sherman



Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board



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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: Deborah C Brandler

Address: 

Telephone: 

Organization, if any: _____

Employer: Bistro 7

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

I see no benefit whatsoever to having casinos in Philadelphia - especially on the Delaware's shores. This beautiful riverfront would be better developed along the same lines as that being done to the Schuylkill River - a path for pedestrians + cyclists w/ appropriate lighting, benches, landscaping. Some restaurants and bars (small scale) would be a great addition as well - w/ ample room to put in some outdoor, ground level parking. - This ~~would~~ idea would

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

put no burden on the local community. No new on/off ramps would be needed to access I95. It would not increase crime + would make this area even more appealing than it already is to new housing development. Business in the city would profit from this as well.

Thanks for listening

I do hope our opinions have some value to you in this world we live in today, where greed + graft seem to be everywhere

D. Brandt



Pennsylvania
Gaming Control Board



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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: Mr and Mrs Scott Vianos

Address:

Telephone:

Organization, if any: N/A

Employer: DEP STOPS

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

We feel very strongly against these casino proposals. We do not want Casinos "slots" in our neighborhood. I do not feel that the city will handle the negative effects, that a casino can bring, in a satisfiable way. There are many issues that they don't address now, and I feel it will only get worse (ie. crime, trash in the streets/ sidewalks). The land along the waterfront should be actually should have been developed years ago!

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

Every other major city on the east / west coast has some sort of "waterfront" (ie. restaurants, attractions). When I hear that casinos, which they should call them what they are SLOTS, I think of Atlantic City. Look at the neighborhoods around those casinos they are ridden w/ crime and poverty. I moved to Fishtown because of ~~the~~ its "neighborhood" appeal. It has become one of the ~~most~~ most popular & fast growing areas in Philadelphia. It would be a shame to stunt that growth. This will not only hurt me and my neighbors, but also surrounding neighborhoods, such as N. Liberties, ~~Port~~ Richmond, and Kensington. ^{They} will all be effected in a negative way. Please consider your citizens, that have believed in Philly, have invested in Philly and want to better Philly. These Citizens don't want SLOTS!

Sincerely,

Daniel Viands

Scott Viands



**Pennsylvania
Gaming Control Board**



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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: Irene Lambrou

Address: 

Telephone: 

Organization, if any: _____

Employer: _____

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

As a resident of Northern Liberties, I demand that the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board extend the deadline for Written Comments beyond June 2, 2006, to a date no more than 60 days prior to the licensing of Philadelphia's Category II facilities. I require more time to review the potential impact of the multiple gaming facilities proposed in and near my community.

In addition, I would like the PA Gaming Control Board to respond publicly to the following concerns:

OVER →

To the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board:

I am a lifelong Philadelphian, and for the last 5 years I have owned a home and participated in community organizations in my neighborhood--Northern Liberties.

The prospect of millions of dollars of revenue from the proposed Philadelphia casinos is very seductive, particularly in light of our failing schools, our understaffed police department, our blighted neighborhoods. But I still say NO to casinos in my city and my neighborhood, particularly on the waterfront, and particularly at Delaware and Spring Garden Streets, *i.e.*, the Riverwalk Abomination. This particular site is the worst possibility, the smallest with the most crowding, the least neighborhood buffer, the least river access (making its proposed name a sad joke), and the tallest parking garage. When I drive east on Spring Garden Street toward the river, I now see open space and a view of the water. I hope I NEVER see a neon-light-illuminated big box casino blocking that river view.

I heard the presentations of the Casino operators and I came away even more convinced that these people do not care about our neighborhoods. We are the ones who will suffer for their indifference and greed. We are the ones who work hard in our neighborhood organizations, on countless committees for countless hours, with nothing but the good of our neighbors and our community at heart. We are the ones who will have to deal with the losses inevitably caused by gambling in a community that is just now starting to experience growth and successes in our planning and zoning processes. None of these casino operators even bothered to present a traffic study to show the real effect of one casino or two casinos, *combined with* the high rise residential complexes already planned for our waterfront. No one could quantify what real benefit would accrue to our neighborhoods as a result of the payments to be made by the casinos to the Commonwealth. I object to the prospect of a casino in my neighborhood, and I object to the corrupt process employed to make it happen without any accountability to us. I further object to the lack of planning by our Commonwealth and our City that has wasted the potential of our riverfront for decades.

Finally, it appears this Gaming Board does not have the moral authority to wield power over our neighborhoods.

From Philadelphia Inquirer, May 30, 2006: Field investigator Justin Husar was charged with escape, resisting arrest, disorderly conduct and public drunkenness. "Husar is the fifth [Gaming] board employee to find himself in trouble with the law. Kevin P. Eckenrode, 25, a former press aide, was allegedly dangling girlfriend Rachel Kozlusk, 23, by her wrists outside his Harrisburg high-rise when she slipped and fell to her death Feb. 25 in what authorities have characterized as alcohol-related horseplay. He is charged with criminal homicide. Two employees were charged in connection with separate fights and disturbances outside Harrisburg bars last year. Last month, an Investigator was arrested after officials learned his college degree came from an online diploma mill."

These incidents undermine my confidence in the Board's ability to handle the myriad complicated problems posed by casino development, and are demoralizing to those of us who work hard to make our neighborhoods better places to live and work.

NO Casino on the Riverfront. NO Casino ANYWHERE without a proper process and a legitimate Gaming Board.

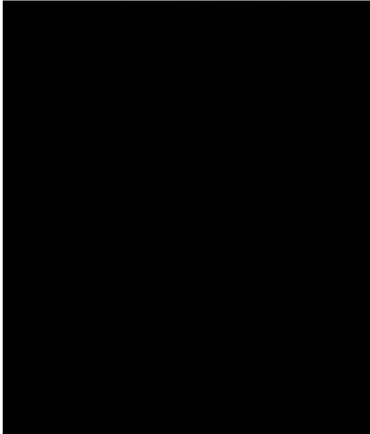
Irene Lambrou



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

5/31/06

5TH DISTRICT
MICHAEL J. STACK



Senate of Pennsylvania

May 25, 2006

COMMITTEES

BANKING & INSURANCE,
DEMOCRATIC CHAIR
AGING & YOUTH
APPROPRIATIONS
JUDICIARY
LAW & JUSTICE
VETERANS AFFAIRS &
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Tad Decker, Esq.
Chairman
Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board
5th Floor, Strawberry Square
Harrisburg, PA 17106

Dear Chairman Decker:

Attached please find correspondence from my constituent Ms. Antoinette Sellitto. Ms. Sellitto opposes riverfront casinos in Philadelphia. Please share her comments with other members of the board. I request that you and other members of the Gaming Control Board consider her comments as you review and vote on Philadelphia's two gaming licenses.

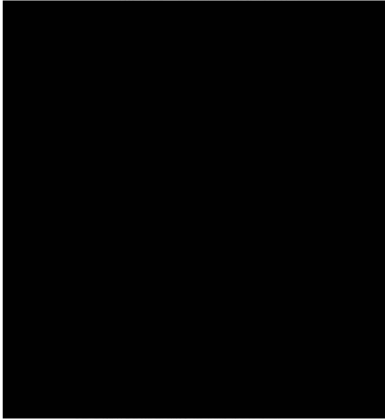
Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions or need additional information, please let me know.

Sincerely,

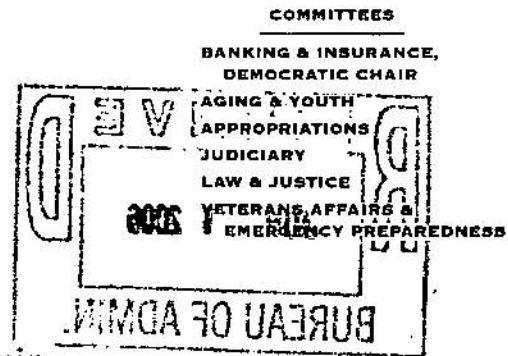
Senator Mike Stack
5th Senatorial District

MJS/mff

5TH DISTRICT
MICHAEL J. STACK



Senate of Pennsylvania



May 31, 2006

Tad Decker, Esq.
Chairman
Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board
5th Floor, Strawberry Square
Harrisburg, PA 17106

Dear Chairman Decker:

Attached please find correspondence from my constituent Mr. Jay Schwartz. Mr. Schwartz opposes casinos in Philadelphia. Please share his comments with other members of the board. I request that you and other members of the Gaming Control Board consider his comments as you review and vote on Philadelphia's two gaming licenses.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions or need additional information, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mike Stack".

Senator Mike Stack
5th Senatorial District

MJS/mff

