

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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NORTH EAST, PENNSYLVANIA 16428
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HOUSE POST OFFICE BOX 96
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PHONE: (717) 787-9475



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

May 12, 1995

COMMITTEES

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE
AGING AND YOUTH
INSURANCE
FEDERAL-STATE RELATIONS

Matthew Skarzenski
13543 Hopson Hill Road
Union City, PA 16438

Dear Mr. Skarzenski:

Thank you very much for your recent letter. You obviously have given riverboat gaming a great deal of consideration, and I appreciate you taking the time to share your perspectives on it. Representative Frank Gigliotti recently reintroduced legislation intended to authorize riverboat gaming in Pennsylvania. House Bill 939, of which I am a cosponsor, was referred to the House Judiciary Committee upon its introduction on March 1.

You may be assured that House Bill 939 will be given a thorough analysis during its period of committee review. If and when the bill is reported out of committee, all of the members of the House will have the opportunity to debate its merits. Beyond that, Governor Ridge's position on riverboat gaming is fairly well known (he supports it, with provisions for a statewide referendum). However, to my knowledge the leadership for the House Republicans, who now control the legislative calendar, have not yet made their views known.

I would like to point out that House Bill 939 contains a local referendum provision, which means that, if the bill should be enacted, the residents most affected by riverboat gaming will have the final say. I believe that this provision is essential to any legislation that would enable riverboat gaming to occur in Pennsylvania.

Again, thank you for sharing your views on riverboat gaming. Please know that I will keep them in mind during any full-House deliberations on House Bill 939 that may happen. If you have any additional comments on this matter, or if I may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely yours,

Handwritten signature of Thomas J. Scrimenti in cursive.
Thomas J. Scrimenti
State Representative

TJS:wdm

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI
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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

AGING AND YOUTH
DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN OF THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGING
PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS

May 30, 1997

Ms. Amy D. Hoban
4314 Cooper Road
Erie, PA 16510

Dear Ms. Hoban:

I very much appreciate your recent correspondence concerning the issue of gambling; more specifically, riverboat gambling on the Erie Bayfront. Your input on this matter is of the utmost importance in my decision making process.

For some of the very same reasons you conveyed in your letter, I want to approach this issue with caution. The proponents of gambling consistently advocate the economic benefits that gambling brings to a locale. However, they remain silenced with regard to the proven dilemmas and social decay that often accompany the introduction of gambling to a new region.

My reservations could be somewhat alleviated should a referendum demonstrate that the majority of the public would support the Bayfront gambling. I also believe it is most important to ensure that the State Lottery program would not suffer should another method of gambling be introduced. As I previously stated, increased gambling often brings the potential for an increase in social problems. It is imperative that social service mechanisms be in place to combat the negative social consequences associated with gambling.

Again, thank you for writing to me and expressing your thoughts. Should there be anything else I may do for you with this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tom Scrimenti".

Thomas J. Scrimenti
State Representative

COPY

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PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS

COPY

June 30, 1997

Pastor Patrick Kennedy
First Baptist Church
43 South Lake Street
North East, PA 16428

Dear Pastor Kennedy:

Thank you for your recent letter concerning the proliferation of gambling opportunities in the Commonwealth. I certainly appreciate your valuable input on this weighty matter; it is of paramount importance to my decision making process that I know your concerns. Quite often I learn of constituents' opinions on issues without knowing the reasoning and rationale behind their positions. Your insight and perspective on this highly disputed matter is most appreciated.

As you know, one of the "selling points" to the latest lobbying effort to expand gambling in the Commonwealth is, as you mentioned, the increased revenue for the government. It is often touted as a means by which tax revenues need not be increased. Therefore, this assimilates an entirely new group of supporters who otherwise would not at all have an interest in the issue. In the end, this issue, while polemical, has a host of arguable reasons for both sides of the debate.

In the past, I have not been a staunch advocate of gambling. However, I will certainly carefully examine this issue and do what I believe will best serve my constituents. Again, I very much appreciate your input. Please feel free to contact my office at any time.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tom Scrimenti".

Thomas J. Scrimenti
State Representative

First Baptist Church
43 South Lake Street
North East, Pennsylvania 16428
814/725-4698

JUN 12 1997

PATRICK KENNEDY
Assistant Pastor

JOHN R. ELLIOTT
Senior Pastor

CHARLES SPACHT
Minister of Youth & Music

June 6, 1997

Mr. Tom Scrimenti
9 West Main Street
North East, PA 16428

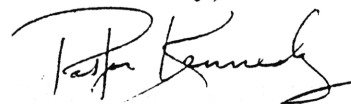
Dear Tom,

I am writing today to ask you to oppose the recent gambling expansion proposal HB 148. Apparently there are some who feel that 1,500 slot machines are an acceptable thing for race tracks to offer. As you are aware there are many studies showing many different results regarding the effect of gambling. Those who are proponents have much to gain since they are the big winners in this gambling business. Therefore I tend to believe they are more than willing to skew the study results in their favor so we'll charge ahead and allow them to make their profits!

Those who resist gambling expansion simply point out the down side of gambling (i.e. crime rates increasing) as is the case in Atlantic City where the crime rate has jumped from 50th to 1st place after gambling was established and also the loss of jobs, 1.3 lost for every one (1) gained. There is the growing sense of dependence on the part of the government to sustain programs on the pain of other people who continually lose at the gaming establishment. I have to question the integrity of anyone who promotes gambling. What kind of person would willingly bring the opportunity for this kind of sorrow into peoples lives?

I hope you will not be one of them. I'm asking you to oppose this most recent push to expand gambling as well as any other gambling measures that come along in the future! Please let me know your position on this proposal.

Sincerely,



Pastor Patrick Kennedy

PK:amp

"...Thy words became for me a joy and the delight of my heart." Jeremiah 15:16

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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

AGING AND OLDER ADULT SERVICES
DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN OF THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CARE AND SERVICES
PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS

October 29, 2001

Gary & Cindy Wells
17550 Route 8
Union City, PA 16438

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Wells:

I am writing in response to your letter in which you expressed your thoughts and concerns regarding several important issues. I appreciate hearing from you with respect to these important matters, and am pleased to have the opportunity to respond.

To begin, you have indicated that you are opposed to the expansion of gambling in Pennsylvania that is provided for in Representative Tom Petrone's legislation, House Bill 2001, which provides for allowing racetracks to have slot machines. In the past, I have supported former Governor Ridge's proposal for a referendum on any further expansions on gambling in the Commonwealth. Indeed, it is clear that we must be very careful about approving any further expansion of gambling in Pennsylvania, and I am committed to reviewing each proposal and evaluating it on its specific merits.

Your second concern is with House Bill 1493, which further provides for the offense of ethnic intimidation. I certainly appreciate that you have expressed your opposition to this legislation, and recognize the value and validity of your arguments. I am personally very concerned about the rising epidemic of intimidation and harassment in our country, and believe that it is very un-American that people are being discriminated against because of who they are. Please know that I will be sure to keep your thoughts in mind if and when this bill comes before the full House for a vote.

You have also indicated that you are in support of House Bill 1110, known as the Religious Child-Care Facilities Act, which proposes to regulate religious child-care facilities. This is another serious and important issue, and I appreciate your views in favor of passing this legislation. I believe that there are certain standards that need to be maintained in any educational environment, while at the same time not encroaching upon the practice of religious freedom. As this bill advances through the legislative process, it

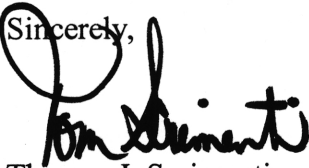
Gary & Cindy Wells
Page 2
October 29, 2001

is likely to be subjected to several amendments. It is only at that time that I will be able to review the final version of this bill and determine whether that delicate balance is still being maintained before I exercise my vote.

Thank you again taking the time to write to me regarding these very important issues. I truly appreciate your perspective as it helps me to take into account everyone's views on significant legislation before I decide how I should vote. Your input is invaluable in this effort to know how best to represent the views of the people of the 4th Legislative District.

If I may be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Scrimenti". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "T" and "S".

Thomas J. Scrimenti
State Representative

10 SEP 2001

17550 Route 8
Union City, PA 16438
September 6, 2001

Thomas Scrimenti
9 West Main Street
North East, PA 16428

Dear Representative Scrimenti:

We are writing in regards to three different areas. The first area is the expansion of gambling in Pennsylvania. We are asking that you would oppose Representative Tom Petrone's legislation for slot machine ballot referenda, and any other attempt to bring casino gambling to Pennsylvania. The claims that gambling would improve economic development with higher tax revenues would more than be offset by social costs. Gambling is highly addictive and destroys families, and especially young children. If we really care about children this is something that would be detrimental to them. We would end up with higher crime rates, bankruptcy, child abuse and suicide. All of this destroys families.

The second area is concerning HB 1493 that would give government the power to punish thoughts, not actions, and would place Pennsylvanians into classes, protecting some citizens more than others under the law. This is completely unnecessary, because current law already protects homosexuals as full citizens of the Commonwealth and the United States. Similar laws passed in other states are now being used as legal stepping stones to same-sex marriage and public school programs promoting the homosexual lifestyle. Because of this we are asking that you Oppose HB 1493.

The third area is concerning HB 1110. It is a fact that the Department of Public Welfare has increasingly been encroaching on the freedoms of religious child-care centers. This bill needs to be passed in order to protect religious child-care centers from state control over their curricula and programs. Passage of HB 1110 would protect the right of parents to choose religious child-care consistent with their religious and moral values; protect religious child-care ministries by allowing them the freedom to fulfill their mission without unnecessary governmental regulation and intrusion; and protect children in religious child-care programs by defining minimum health and safety standards. We are asking that you would support HB 1110.

Sincerely,

Andy Wells
Gary & Andy Wells
Gary L. Wells

mailed from NE
office
11/16/01

COMMITTEES

- AGING AND OLDER ADULT SERVICES
- DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN OF THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CARE AND SERVICES
- PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE
- AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

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November 15, 2001

Ms. Asenath Wright
37 East High Street
Union City, PA 16438

Dear Ms. Wright:

Thank you for your letter regarding your opposition to the proposed Presque Isle Downs horse racing facility. Your thoughts and concerns are greatly appreciated.

Under current law, the State Horse Racing Commission, a division of the Department of Agriculture, is authorized and responsible for issuing or rejecting an applicant's request for a license to conduct horse racing. During the application process, the Commission reviews police and Federal Bureau of Investigation reports to make sure the applicant has legally conducted business in the past and that they are financially and ethically sound entities.

In addition, the Commission conducts public meetings and holds public comment periods for individuals to offer their support or objections to the issuance of a particular license. The Commission is accepting public comments on the proposed Presque Isle Downs facility until November 26, 2001. If you would like to submit a public comment, you can write to the Commission at:

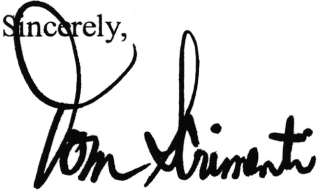
State Horse Racing Commission
Department of Agriculture
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110

Since the Commission opens an office at every racetrack, if an applicant's request for a license to conduct horse racing is granted, the applicant is still under daily observation by the Commission and must renew its license on an annual basis. At each racetrack, the Commission observes the treatment of horses and makes sure that all rules and regulations are followed.

Ms. Asenath Wright
Page 2
November 15, 2001

Although the Commission is responsible for making a decision on the proposed Presque Isle Downs horse racing facility, please know that I will continue to review all of the information on this matter. If I may be of further assistance to you on this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Scrimenti". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "T" and "S".

Thomas J. Scrimenti
State Representative

mailed 4/8

COMMITTEES

- AGING AND OLDER ADULT SERVICES
- PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE
- AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS
- DEMOCRATIC VICE CHAIRMAN



House of Representatives
 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
 HARRISBURG

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April 4, 2003

Mr. Charles R. Johnson
 28 South Street
 Union City, PA 16438

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Thank you for taking the time to relate your concerns regarding efforts to increase gambling activities in Pennsylvania. As your state representative, I appreciate the opportunity to address this important issue.

Not unlike a lot of topics, the issue of gambling in Pennsylvania seems to be a recurring one, particularly when a lagging economy has spurred legislative efforts to enhance state revenues and counterbalance budget deficits without raising taxes. Gambling, of any nature, is quite controversial and often affects a large number of people. The impact of instituting slot machines at the state's racetracks and the effects it will have on the people of the Commonwealth is of great importance to me. The issue still faces much scrutiny and debate among the members of the General Assembly and forthright citizens such as you.

The horse racing industry is an important component of Pennsylvania's economy and culture. As such, any significant change that may occur in the industry will undoubtedly have an effect on families and individuals in the community. Therefore, I believe it is essential for the General Assembly to discuss all aspects of this issue in an attentive and deliberate manner. Please be assured that I will remember and respect your concerns as my colleagues and I prepare to focus on the issue of slot machines at racetracks and any other prospective legislation that seeks to expand gambling opportunities in Pennsylvania.

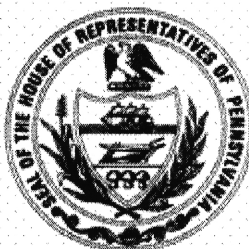
Again, thank you for your thoughtful letter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I may be of further assistance with this or any other matter.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Scrimenti
 State Representative

White, Dollicia A.

From: Zarek, Christina
Sent: Saturday, July 03, 2004 11:43 AM
To: All Dem Members & Staff
Subject: Gaming Background -- HB 2330



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

Date: July 3, 2004
To: All Democratic Members
From: Bill DeWeese and Mike Veon

Dear Colleague,

Attached are the materials we distributed yesterday evening during our caucus on H.B. 2330, the gaming legislation. We hope you find the information helpful as you prepare to vote on the bill and discuss the outcome with your constituents and the media.

As always, if you need additional information, please don't hesitate to call on us.

Sincerely,

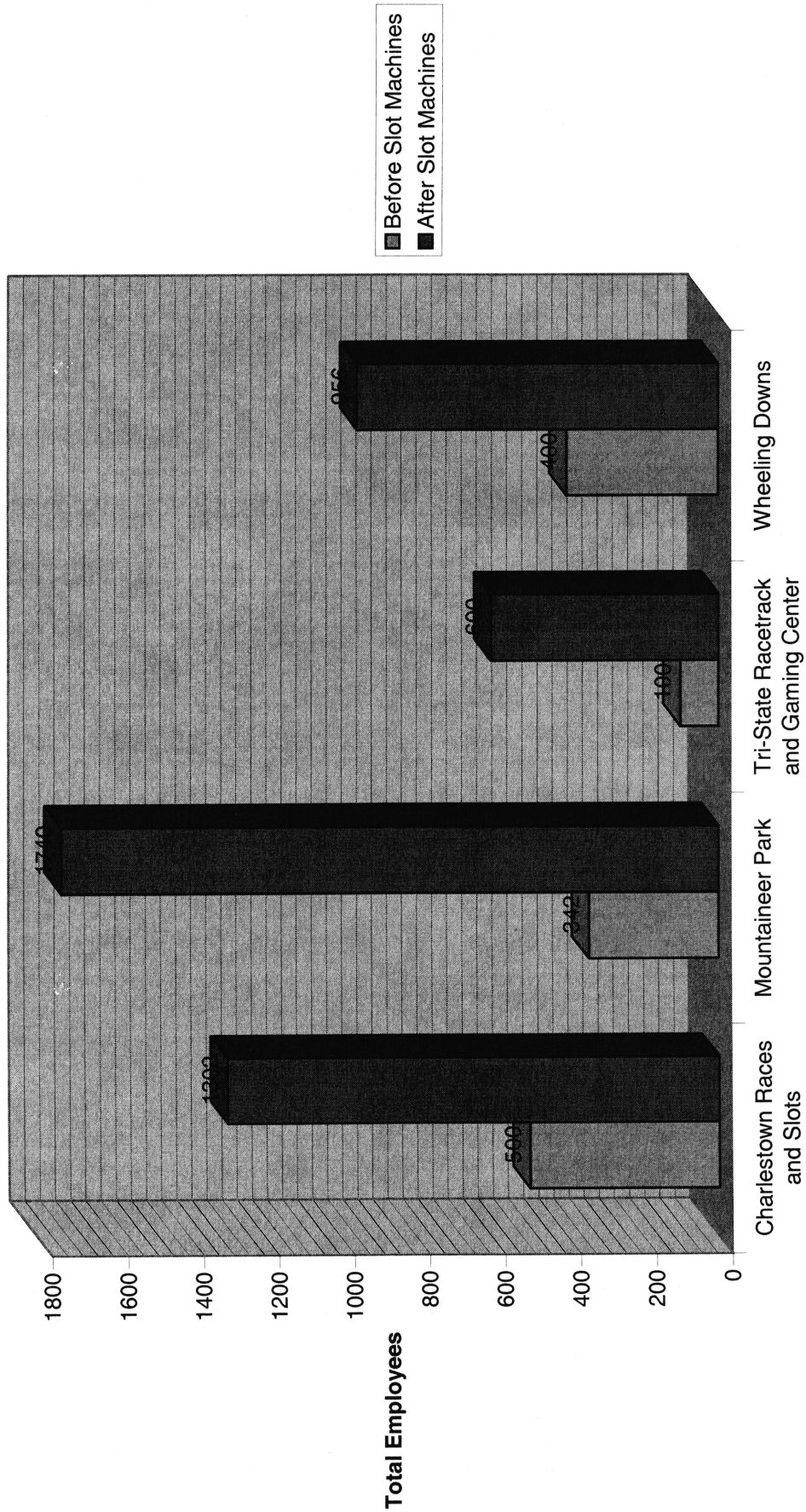
Handwritten signature of Bill DeWeese.

Handwritten signature of Mike Veon.

Rep. Bill DeWeese
Minority Leader

Rep. Mike Veon
Minority Whip

Total Employment at West Virginia Racetracks



A Sensible, Bipartisan Slots Plan

A) The plan will generate \$1 billion in property tax relief for Pennsylvanians

B) 14 total slots locations (up to 61,000 machines)

7 at racetracks (up to 5000 machines at each site, 3000 in first year)

-- 4 Existing eligible horse racing tracks

* The Meadows harness racing track in Washington County

* Penn National Race Course near Harrisburg

* Philadelphia Park in Philadelphia County

* The Downs at Pocono, located outside Wilkes-Barre

-- 2 Licensed tracks yet to be built

* Erie County

* Chester County

-- 1 track license to be awarded

5 at nontrack venues (up to 5000 machines at each site, 3000 in first year)

-- 2 in Philadelphia

-- 1 in Pittsburgh

-- 2 at venues to be determined

2 resort venues (up to 500 machines at each site)

C) License Fees* (Initially, more than \$610 million in revenues would come to the state from license fees)

-- \$50 million for race tracks

-- \$50 million for nontrack venues

-- \$5 million for resort venues

-- \$50,000 for slots manufacturers (\$25,000 renewal fee)

-- \$25,000 for slots suppliers (\$10,000 renewal fee)

**Licensees also pay administrative costs for program*

D) Approximate division of slot revenue*

During initial years (approximately two)

-- 34% to state

-- 12% to increase horse racing purses, benefits for horsemen and breeders' funds

-- 4% local share

-- 5% for economic development projects

-- 45% returned to owners for operation of business, such as salaries, utilities, marketing, etc.

*When all facilities are operational***

- 34% to state
- 9% to increase horse racing purses, benefits for horsemen and breeders' funds
- 4% local share
- 5% for economic development projects
- 48% returned to owners for operation of business, such as salaries, utilities, marketing, etc.

**some percentages, excluding the state's share, will fluctuate due to variances associated with the number of venues between the time the plan is authorized and fully implemented*

***contributions from nontrack facilities will result in 18% total for horse racing purses, benefits for horsemen and breeders' funds*

E) Gaming Control Board*

- Seven members
 - 3 appointed by Governor Rendell
 - 4 appointed by the caucuses

**Five votes would be required for granting a license. Four of the votes must be by the legislative appointments and one by the governor's appointment.*

THE BASICS

Pennsylvania property taxes have gone up 54.8 percent in the last 10 years!

A decline in state funding has resulted in school districts dramatically increasing property taxes in order to fill the education funding gap.

A slots plan to reduce property taxes would

- save Pennsylvania homeowners money
- prevent many people from being taxed out of their homes

Gaming legislation is a job-creation, economic development package that would boast **over 70,000 jobs in Pennsylvania as a result of the gaming legislation**

An overwhelming **68 percent of Pennsylvanians favor slots** at racetracks.

(2003 poll by Madonna Young Opinion Research)

Economic Benefits

Pennsylvania money will stay in Pennsylvania

Pennsylvanians would contribute more to the state economy, rather than spending money at out-of-state gambling establishments.

- Thousands of Pennsylvania residents cross state lines every day to play slots in Delaware, New Jersey, New York and West Virginia.
- Pennsylvanians spend approximately \$3.2 billion annually to gamble in other states, not including disposable income spent on hotels, restaurants and transportation. *(Bring Our Taxes Home - BOTH)*
- Half the money wagered at racetracks with slot machines in Delaware and West Virginia comes from Pennsylvania. *(International Gaming and Wagering Business)*
- Pennsylvanians also make up about 40 percent of the traffic at slots in New Jersey's casinos.
- The Pennsylvania Horse Racing Association estimates that Pennsylvania gamblers made 1.7 million trips last year to out-of-state gaming destinations such as racetracks with slot machines in Delaware and West Virginia, and casinos in New York, Canada and Connecticut.
- Nearly three-quarters of the money Pennsylvanians spent in 2003 on out-of-state gambling was on slot machines. *(Pennsylvania Horse Racing Association)*

Increased Tourism

Slots would increase the number of visitors from other states who will spend their traveling dollars in Pennsylvania for vacations, business events and conventions.

Marylanders spend \$309 million annually in Delaware and West Virginia in support of their slot machines. Now Pennsylvanians will benefit as thousands of Marylanders cross state lines to spend their discretionary dollars (*source: Office of Maryland Governor Robert L. Ehrlich*)

Help horseracing industry

Horseracing industry employs 35,000 Pennsylvanians, generates more than \$500 million in personal income, \$865 million in economic activity, and tens of millions of dollars annually in state and local taxes.

The horseracing industry is on the decline. Without slots, Pennsylvania's racetracks are not able to compete with those of neighboring states.

The average annual racetrack attendance in Pennsylvania declined from 5 million in 1980 to about 1.1 million in 2000. (*figures from Pennsylvania Horse Racing Association*)

And there may be more jobs to come after gaming is implemented.

Job Growth Basics

In 2003, the nation ranked Pennsylvania 42nd in job growth and 31st in business growth.

- Jobs at nearby hotels and restaurants would increase in response to the growing number of tourists at these destination points.
- Many of the jobs will be at the tracks, themselves - a range of hospitality, service, restaurant and technical personnel needed to support slot machines and the customers they will attract.
- Other jobs will be generated in accounting, computers, security and other positions at vendors and suppliers to the tracks and to businesses in the vicinity of the tracks.
- The surge in employment resulting from the addition of slots is bound to have a snowball effect because the slots at racetracks will be open year-round as opposed to just during racing months.
 - Consequently, many jobs at the facilities that are currently seasonal would become full-time.
 - Jobs at surrounding establishments and attractions would increase due to the year-round demand.

Thousands of construction jobs within the next one to two years after approval of gaming legislation.

Total Jobs

- Based on a 2001 Penn State Study, adding 1,500 slot machines – that's *half* the permissible quantity - to just the four existing race tracks would create 17,700 new jobs and an increase of \$2.5 billion in economic activity in Pennsylvania.
- That means, with the four current tracks and the new slots facilities, we would realize **more than 36,000 NEW jobs as a result of the bill.**
- Considering the 35,000 people already employed directly because of the current tracks, we would see **total employment of more than 70,000.**

Annual Salary Estimates

- slots operation jobs -- \$30,000 to \$35,000
- coin and revenue auditing related jobs -- \$20,000 to \$30,000
- security and surveillance jobs -- \$25,000 to \$35,000
- human resources/management jobs -- \$75,000 to \$100,000
- marketing and promotional jobs -- \$24,000 to \$35,000
- facilities and maintenance jobs -- \$15,000 to \$20,000
- valet and shuttle bus jobs -- \$20,000 to \$25,000 plus tips

-- June 27, 2003, Valley News Dispatch

Economic Development Investments

- Five percent of the revenue from gaming is devoted to investing in Pennsylvania's economic vitality.
- The additional funding from slots revenues for economic development projects eases the strain on the Capital budget.

- The board is authorized to parlay \$150 million of gaming revenue into an estimated \$2 billion in bonds for economic development projects in every legislative district across the Commonwealth.
- The bill does not limit which projects may be funded, except for those in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh.
- The process for determining which projects will be completed using slots revenues will be the same as that followed in the Capital budget.

Pro-Labor and Diversity Provisions

The Gaming Board may not approve or renew a license unless:

- The applicant's good faith effort to assure equality of opportunity in employment and contracting by the prospective licensee and any businesses it uses directly or indirectly.
- The degree to which the applicant presents a plan for the project which will likely lead to the creation of quality, living-wage full-time jobs.
- The record of the applicant and its developer regarding compliance with discrimination and wage laws.
- The applicant's good faith plans to recruit, train, and upgrade diversity in all employment classifications in the facility.
- The applicant's good faith plan for enhancing the representation of diverse groups in the operation of its facility.

The Gaming Board would be required to:

- Develop and implement an affirmative action plan to assure equality of opportunity in employment and contracting by the Board, its contractors, subcontractors, assignees, lessees, agents, vendors and suppliers.
- Promote and ensure diversity in all aspects of gaming activities:
 - By working to enhance the representation of diverse groups in the ownership, participation and operation of licensees.
 - Through the ownership, operation, and participation of business enterprises associated with or utilized by licensees.
 - Through the provision of goods and services utilized by slot machine licensees.

Success in other States

- Slots are a reasonable, effective approach to managing the economy, and our neighboring states have the numbers to prove it.

Delaware:

- \$200 million in 2002 gambling tax revenues.
(Delaware Lottery Commission)
 - Earmarked for
 - public and higher education
 - health and social services
 - public safety

West Virginia:

- \$187 million in 2002 gambling tax revenues
(West Virginia Lottery Commission)
 - Set aside for community programs and cultural improvements
- Charles Town racetrack (West Virginia) ALONE:
 - Total employment created by racing is 2,580 full-time equivalent jobs.
 - In 2000, the total amount expended to support racing was \$99 million. Most of the money was spent locally.

Auctioning vs. Set License Fees

- Every additional dollar that goes into paying for a license is one fewer dollar the licensee can invest in its facility.
- The process of awarding licenses should be based on determining who is most fit to hold the license (financial ability, honesty, responsibility and integrity) – not who can ante-up the most money.
- If companies overbid on licenses and eventually go into bankruptcy, the state will lose considerable revenue as they go through that process.

- While auctioning recently yielded exorbitant bids in Illinois, the situation for us is not comparable.
 - It was the only license available.
 - It was for a full casino on a riverboat.
 - It was in the Chicago market with no other competition.

Enforcement

All board members and applicants for licenses are subject to full background checks by the Pennsylvania State Police.

The Gaming Board, the Pennsylvania State Police and the Department of Revenue will enforce the law.

The board can direct the State Police to conduct background checks and fingerprinting of applicants, licensees and permit.

The bill calls for the State Police to collaborate with the FBI to facilitate criminal history records and fingerprinting data.

Job projections from slots at The Meadows

Annual Salary Estimates

- slots operation jobs -- \$30,000 to \$35,000
- coin and revenue auditing related jobs -- \$20,000 to \$30,000
- security and surveillance jobs -- \$25,000 to \$35,000
- human resources/management jobs -- \$75,000 to \$100,000
- marketing and promotional jobs -- \$24,000 to \$35,000
- facilities and maintenance jobs -- \$15,000 to \$20,000
- valet and shuttle bus jobs -- \$20,000 to \$25,000 plus tips

-- June 27, 2003, Valley News Dispatch

***Percentage of State Cuts of
Gaming Proceeds***

Pennsylvania	34
Illinois	15-70
Indiana	15-35
Louisiana	21.5
Colorado	20
Iowa	20
Missouri	20
Michigan	18
Mississippi	8
New Jersey	8
South Dakota	8
Nevada	6.25

White, Dollicia A.

From: Manzo, Michael
Sent: Monday, August 16, 2004 10:51 AM
To: Dem Members & Legis Assts
Subject: Gaming questions

Legislative assistants, please bring this to the attention of your Member. Hard copy to follow.

MEMO

**From: Rep. Bill DeWeese, Minority Leader
Rep. Mike Veon, Minority Whip**

To: All House Democratic Members

Date: August 16, 2004

Subject: Gaming

The ink was barely dry on the new gaming law in Pennsylvania when the critics and nitpickers began to try and chip away at it. While some criticisms may have a shred of validity, the attacks show a clear pattern, one that threatens a billion dollars in property tax cuts, billions of dollars in economic development, tens of thousands of new jobs, and the entire Pennsylvania horse racing industry itself.

The ultimate goal of both the House and Senate Republican opponents is to find a reason – any reason – to re-open Act 71 before it ever gets off the ground. And while some of the motives may be pure, there is no question that there are gaming opponents who would like nothing more than another shot at destroying this historic achievement in its infancy.

As Leaders of this caucus, we will continue to take the stand that we will not, at any point or for any reason, support re-opening the new gaming law.

Opponents have begun to focus on 5 different areas of the Act that they claim “need to be fixed” as a way to revisit the entire law. They are:

1. **The 1% equity ownership provision.**
2. **Local shares of gaming revenue**

3. **Law enforcement provisions**
4. **Gambling addiction money**
5. **Securitization language**

When we reconvene in October, there are plenty of alternative avenues to refine this language where needed without re-opening or amending Act 71.

1% Equity Ownership

Of the entire Act, the most public scrutiny, and the greatest misunderstanding, has been aimed at the so-called "1% provision." Opponents have tried to paint this as some sort of nefarious way to enrich lawmakers. Nothing could be farther from the truth. This provision, modeled after New Jersey law, is one of the toughest in the nation and is designed to restrict ownership by elected officials but allow them to continue to participate in pension funds, mutual funds or other indirect investments that could have gaming interests as part of a wider portfolio. In fact, some of the gaming opponents actually voted for the bill the first time through the House, when the allowable level of investment was at 2%.

But as it stands today, we agree that this historic law is too important to allow any cloud of misunderstanding to hang over it. We have publicly stated that we will support a reasonable change to this language. However, we support doing it in either the House Rules or in the Ethics Act, where this prohibition belongs. We do not need to re-open gaming to address it, and in fact, amending the House Rules or Ethics Act would be a faster way to achieve this goal.

Local Shares of Gaming Revenue

The local share of gaming revenue, that is, the portion that will go to counties and host municipalities, was an issue that was negotiated by gaming supporters for the better part of two years. The primary purpose was to compensate affected local governments for additional costs they will incur as a result of gaming and not to supplement local government budgets. Not every municipality or host county has the same needs. We also decided to make certain, where we could, that this money could be used not only for public safety, but for job creation and economic development.

The simple fact is that there are now gaming opponents who are not happy with the formula, and they are pushing to re-open the Act so that they can decide where the revenue will go. We do not support that logic.

Law Enforcement

Again, we are faced with an area of "concern" that opponents have grabbed onto that is nothing more than a red herring. Contrary to the apocryphal stories we heard during House and Senate debate, the arrival of slot machines in Pennsylvania will not signal the end of law and order. The law enforcement language in Act 71 is again some of the strongest in the nation. In fact, the Commissioner of the Pennsylvania State Police in a letter to Members of the Pennsylvania General Assembly stated: **"I strongly believe that it is essential to have law enforcement oversight in legislation of this sort to prevent abuses and to protect the public. HB2330 accomplishes this goal. ... I am satisfied that the legislation provides adequate law enforcement oversight."**

If, after gaming is up and running, local or state law enforcement officers identify problem areas, we would be more than happy to amend Title 18 (the Crimes Code) or the RICO statute to remedy any problems. However, opponents who are flying that flag right now are simply holding up an answer in search of a problem that does not exist.

Gambling Addiction Money

Nobody on either side of the gaming issue wishes to see a shortage of state funds for addiction counseling. That is why there is a formula in place in the Act itself that increases available addiction treatment dollars as gaming revenues rise. But again, the first slot machine is not even in place in Pennsylvania, and opponents are already crying "the dollars are not sufficient!"

We will support additional dollars for gambling addiction in the state budget if that scenario materializes. We find it supremely ironic, however, that the Republican Members who are fighting for more gambling addiction money are the very same Members who so cavalierly slashed 90% of drug and alcohol treatment money in the 2003-2004 fiscal year budget. Perhaps this is why we feel that, at least for the moment, their words ring particularly hollow on this issue.

Securitization Language

This is another example of gaming opponents identifying an issue that they do not like to use as an excuse to re-open the gaming law. This language was researched, debated and compromised upon by all four caucuses' gaming advocates and the Governor's Office. The purpose of this language was to ensure that the Governor would be able to drive out economic development dollars more quickly and at a higher level, thereby immediately relieving pressure on the Capitol Budget.

House Bill 2330 was debated on the House Floor for nine hours. Nary a word was raised at that time. We will not support revisiting this language.

We hope this memo helps you to better understand what has happened since we adjourned and what we can expect in October. Make no mistake: there are gaming opponents in both the House and Senate who would like nothing more than to scuttle this law before we ever see dollar one flow into the Property Tax Relief Fund.

We are proud, as you should be, of what we achieved as a caucus on this issue. For the first time ever, every Pennsylvania household will see a property tax cut. We will create a brand-new industry, and with it, tens of thousands of good-paying jobs. We will save the 35,000 existing jobs in our horse racing industry. And we will drive billions of dollars in economic development money to all parts of this great commonwealth.

In the coming weeks, our staff will provide you with a "**Frequently Asked Questions**" manual on the new gaming law. As always, feel free to contact either of our offices if you have any questions.

Enjoy the rest of your summer; we will see you in the fall!

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

□ 9 WEST MAIN STREET
NORTH EAST, PENNSYLVANIA 16428
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□ 202 NORTH CENTER STREET
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HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2020
PHONE: (717) 787-8475



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

AGING AND OLDER ADULT SERVICES
DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN OF THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CARE AND SERVICES
PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS

December 21, 2001

Mr. Richard Barzeski

██████████
North East, PA 16428

Dear Mr. Barzeski:

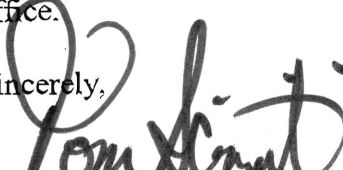
Thank you for your recent letter in which you expressed your opposition to House Bill 2181, which would provide for independent review and oversight of Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) regulations that relate to recreational use of state game lands. As a state representative, I appreciate hearing about those issues that are important to residents of the 4th Legislative District.

Please know that I understand your reasons for wanting to see the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) maintain regulatory control over state game lands. I, too, share your concerns on this issue and am skeptical about the intentions of this legislation. For instance, many questions remain unanswered as to why the Commission now needs independent review of its regulations considering it has been in operation for decades. Until these reasons become apparent, I cannot support this bill.

At this writing, HB 2181 is being studied by the House Tourism and Recreational Development Committee where it awaits approval. In addition, I have been informed that the committee will be holding a public hearing on this bill, January 16, 2002 at 1:00 p.m. in Room 140 of the Main Capitol Building. Although I am not a member of that legislative panel, please know that I will continue to voice my opposition to this proposal until adequate information is provided.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to convey to me your stance on this important issue. As always, if I may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,


Thomas J. Scrimenti
State Representative

MEMORANDUM

TO: Representative Thomas J. Scrimenti

CC: Donna Ehrhart

FROM: Charles Wywiorka, Research Analyst
Legislative Research Office -- (787-9516)

DATE: December 20, 2001

RE: **Richard Barzeski Response Letter Re: House Bill 2181**

As per your request, I have drafted a supportive response letter for Richard Barzeski. As you may recall, Mr. Barzeski wrote to you regarding his opposition of House Bill 2181, which would provide for independent review and oversight of Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) regulations that relate to recreational use of state game lands. In the letter, I informed Mr. Barzeski of the status of HB 2181, as well as your opposition to this proposal considering the controversy that surrounds it.

According to Robert Miller, Democratic Executive Director of the House Game and Fisheries Committee, HB 2181 is perceived as a terrible piece of legislation. Mr. Miller informed me that the origin of this bill arose from Representatives Mark McNaughton, John Barley, and Robert Godshall's disdain for the PGC. Apparently, these legislators are attempting to use this bill as a vehicle to send a message to the PGC. Mr. Miller also informed me that a number of co-sponsors have been withdrawing their support from this bill due to its controversial nature. In fact, Mr. Miller has been urging Democratic co-sponsors to do so. In addition, although Representative Godshall has scheduled a public hearing on this bill for January 16, 2002, Mr. Miller does not anticipate that HB 2181 will go anywhere--it is too controversial.

I hope this letter and information proves useful. If you need further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

AGING AND OLDER ADULT SERVICES
DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN OF THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CARE AND SERVICES
PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS

April 8, 2002

Mr. Chad S. Cochrane

██████████
North East, PA 16428

Dear Mr. Cochrane:

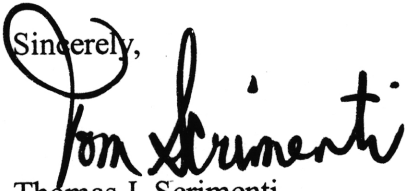
I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your recent correspondence regarding your concerns with global climate change. As a state legislator, I always appreciate hearing about those matters most important to my constituents.

I, too, am very concerned with the global climate change. There is a preponderance of evidence that this is a very real environmental problem that has the ability to cause myriad future calamities. With that said, I firmly believe that the international community, the federal government, and Pennsylvania must view this as a genuine crisis and take aggressive steps at mitigating global warming. At the state level, the House Democratic Caucus has introduced a resolution, HR 200, which provides for a thorough investigation of greenhouse gas emissions in an effort to reduce global warming. This resolution calls for the development of an inventory of greenhouse gas emissions, a report on the impacts of global warming in the Commonwealth, a determination of how existing programs affect greenhouse gas emissions, the development of a strategy for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and finally a report by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection summarizing the conclusions reached by the implementation of the amendment. I fully support this resolution and believe it is an important step in addressing global climate change.

Please be assured that I am dedicated to protecting the environment. The Pennsylvania Constitution provides every resident with the *right* to "clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment." I take this clause very seriously and view it as more than a blanket statement. It is our job as legislators to assure that we enact all reasonable measures to uphold this article of the constitution. I will continue to investigate the implications of global and other environmental dilemmas. I, moreover, will consider your concerns when voting on environmental legislation.

Mr. Chad S. Cochran
Page 2

Once again, thank you for taking the time to contact my office. If you have any further questions on this or other areas of interest, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Scrimenti
State Representative

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI
STATE REPRESENTATIVE



COMMITTEES

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE,
SECRETARY
AGING & YOUTH
INSURANCE
POLICY

House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG
March 19, 1992

- 9 WEST MAIN STREET
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PHONE: (717) 787-9475

Ms. Bobbie Kozlowski
Bernard Brick Company
P.O. Box 8166
Erie, PA 16505

Dear Ms. Kozlowski:

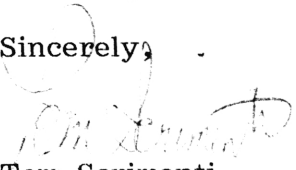
I very much appreciate your writing me of your concerns for our state. In these days of economic hardship throughout the nation, all ideas and opinions are certainly welcomed and needed as we in the Legislature react to the national crises. I had your idea about requiring the use of Pennsylvania contractors and material for state projects researched. The Department of General Services was contacted for the current procedures and policies regarding out-of-state competition for state financed projects.

As you know, Pennsylvania does not give any preference to in-state bids. Some states have institutionalized a procedure of promoting their own industry. In New Jersey for example all out-of-state bids on contracts are penalized a certain percentage, adding to their projected costs. Other states, including Pennsylvania, have retaliated for this practice by altering bids offered from companies based in New Jersey by adding the same percentage. This practice goes on elsewhere throughout the country. Ms. Kozlowski, it is my understanding that because of this retribution, most contractors doing business with the state do not want special treatment here. Since many of these same contractors do business outside of our state, they believe their other business dealings would be jeopardized.

Pennsylvania awards contracts to the "lowest responsible and responsive bid". The rationale for this simple formula is that these contracts are financed with taxpayer dollars. It has been decided by the Department of General Services and the Governor that cost should be the determining factor in awarding state contracts, not location of the contractor. It is important to note that the great majority of state projects do stay local, but some do go to outside interests. Whenever this aberration occurs, its justification is found in the savings offered to the taxpayer.

I hope that this information proves helpful to you. Again, thank you for writing me of your thoughts and of your kind words. I hope you continue to contact me on this or any other matter of importance to you.

Sincerely,


Tom Scrimenti
State Representative

Bernard BRICK COMPANY

2315 Powell Ave. • P.O. Box 8186 • Erie, PA 16505 • (814) 833-7711



March 5, 1992

Representative Thomas J. Scrimenti
Room 25B East Wing
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120-0030

MAR 09 1992

Dear Representative Scrimenti

In reference to your recent mailing detailing the projects that you had an opportunity to affect.

My husband has owned, and managed his brick business since 1968. The reason for my letter is to applaud your efforts to create jobs for Pennsylvanians in the State of Pennsylvania. However, there is an issue that needs to be addressed.

FIRST: We are aware that a Pittsburgh firm was awarded General Contractor for the new prison in Albion, Pennsylvania.

SECOND: The Plastek project was billed as a business to put local people to work. Mexican people have been recruited and relocated in our area to work because, local people cannot afford to work for the low wages that the plastic industry is known to pay.

The reason I am writing today is that Pennsylvania needs a **BUY A PENNSYLVANIA POLICY!** What I mean is simply that, any project which is funded by our tax dollars, that the monies remain in this state. Restrictions prohibiting purchasing of building materials, furnishings, and most importantly employment from any entity other than the State of Pennsylvania should be imposed. Materials/goods that are not manufactured within the state should be purchased through a local dealer/distributor in the state, and wherever possible within the county.

Right now the split masonry units to be used for our prison in Albion is going to be supplied by a manufacturer from Michigan. Why is this practice permitted? We have comparable materials available in Erie County, and within the State of Pennsylvania.

"We Appreciate Your Business"

Representative Thomas J. Scrimenti
Page 2
March 5, 1992

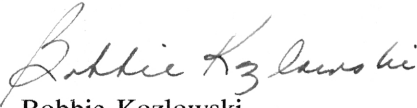
I can site other projects where we have sought to supply materials for projects within the states of New York and Ohio, and in each instance these were state and municipal projects that had a **BUY NEW YORK OR BUY OHIO** clause which prohibited our bid to supply the materials. These "Pork Barrel" projects are designed to employ local people. How many people were in line for jobs that were not from Erie County, and when the jobs were posted for Albion and Cambridge Springs, how many from other states?

How bad does the economy have to get before we start insuring that **local tax dollars stay in ERIE and PENNSYLVANIA?**

We have very competent architects, contractors, laborers, distributors and dealers to handle any construction need...it is time to insure their livelihood.

The construction industry in Pennsylvania needs your help. You have an obligation to think about this matter and it is our hope that you will rally around this issue for the good of your constituents.

Sincerely


Bobbie Kozlowski
MARKETING/SALES