



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: MARLA SHEGA

Address:

Telephone:

.com

Organization, if any: —

Employer: Self

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

I remember as a teenager going to the Pens games when there were only 2-3,000 fans in the arena... Mario changed all that & brought 2 Stanley Cups to Pittsburgh as well - a dream come true for Pens fans.

It would be a tragedy if the Pens were forced to leave town after all Mario has done to save them. Stop playing politics & work together to keep our team in Pittsburgh so his legacy can live on & we can enjoy promising young players that are now in the organization.

A full sale of Capri has the best plan

which includes building a new arena
& keeping the team in Pittsburgh.

I now live in Chicago, but I
won't be traveling to Pittsburgh as
often if there isn't a hockey game
to see while I'm there.

We now have the best player
in the league in Sidney Crosby, &
a roster of new players that could
bring another Cup to Pittsburgh -
don't lose this chance to make the
city shine again as the Steelers have
by winning the Super Bowl!

Thank you.

Mark A. Shea

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



**MONROEVILLE
AREA
CHAMBER**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jeff Tobe, Chairman
Coloring Outside the Lines

James Jobe, Vice Chairman
Jobe Funeral Home

Jenny Caliendo, Treasurer

Patricia Grieve, Past Board Chairman
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Municipality of Monroeville

Joseph Callg
CCAC - Boyce Campus

Vaughn Gilbert
Westinghouse Electric Company

Rudy Marfin
Independent Communication Group

Justin McCall, Esq.
Papernick & Gefsky

William Otto, Esq.
Sebring & Associates

Robert Petrilli
RFP Enterprises & Entertainment, LLC

Jack Rupp
Rupp Fiore Insurance

Shelby Sieg
Marriott North at Cranberry Woods

Cleveland Steward, Jr., Ed.D.
Gateway School District

Kathryn Swank-Corcetti
Corcetti Chiropractic & Rehab

Darlette Tice
The Western Pennsylvania Hospital
Forbes Regional Campus

Michael Vento
Radisson of Monroeville

J.R. Yocco
Grant Street Associates, Inc.

Wes Blaha, Lifetime Board Member
Retired

Gene Van Horn, Lifetime Board Member
Retired

The Honorable Tad Decker, Chairman
Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board
PO Box 69060
Harrisburg, PA 17106-9060

Dear Chairman Decker,

On behalf of the Monroeville Area Chamber of Commerce, and our nearly 650 local business members, I am proud to voice our organization's support of the plan presented by the Pittsburgh First/Isle of Capri Casinos to receive the stand alone slots license for the City of Pittsburgh.

Situated only 13 miles from downtown Pittsburgh, our community has a vested interest in this issue. Our businesses depend upon a vibrant and competitive Pittsburgh region to ensure our own local success. We fervently believe the Pittsburgh First plan is the best for gaming in our region. The plan not only provides for **full private funding** for the construction of a new much needed multi-purpose arena, but also for the re-development of the Lower Hill and Uptown districts of the city.

From the perspective of our business community, this plan seems like the closest option we may ever get to perfect. We would challenge anyone to demonstrate a clear advantage of not using private funds to build a new arena, save taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars and provide for the redevelopment of the almost 30 acres in downtown.

Hockey fans, concert goers, others who will use a multi-use facility and Pittsburghers in general are counting on a fair, open and public process that will result in the selection of the best plan for our region. That means the best plan on its own merit - not politics. We are confident that if the decision is made on the facts, the Isle of Capri/Pittsburgh First plan will prevail. The entire Southwestern Pennsylvania region will be watching closely to make sure that the merits triumph over the politics.

Sincerely,

Chad M. Amfond
President

Copy: Jeffrey I. Tobe, Chairman, Monroeville Area Chamber Board of Directors



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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: Michael J. Hanczar

Address: 

Telephone: 

Organization, if any: none

Employer: US Postal Service

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

I support the Isle of Capri proposal for the Pittsburgh Slots license for three reasons:

- 1) it is the best location
- 2) they have the best plan
- 3) best deal for the city of Pittsburgh & surrounding counties including providing the most in tax revenue for the state

It is in the best location. I can leave the Mellon Arena following a sporting event with 17,000 people & get to my car & be out of



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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: Christine Geller

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Organization, if any: _____

Employer: Eckard

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

I have been a resident of Pittsburgh for 31 years. Over that period of time, the city has gone through many changes. Due to the economy many people, including myself, have moved to the suburbs. Pittsburgh needs help. With this in mind I am in support of the Issues of Capri. Under the ownership, Pittsburgh will receive the most revenue for the city itself. I plan on staying here in Pittsburgh and I want to



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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: Michael A. Boyd

Address:

Telephone:

Organization, if any:

Employer:

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

I support the Pittsburgh Penguins and Isle of Capri's bid for a slot machine license.

An arena is a vital asset to every city. It can be used 365 days per year and houses

far more than sporting events. Losing the

Penguins would not only reflect negatively on Pittsburgh, but would also lower the reputation

of Pennsylvania and be a black mark on

Gov. Rendell's term in office. In addition,

Marie Lemieux has given back to the community

through the millions of dollars in donations to Children's Hospital far more than any other owner



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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: Jeff Brancolini
Address: 
Telephone: 
Organization, if any: _____
Employer: Ariba Inc.

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

Gaming Control Board,

I understand your position on the Pittsburgh slot license, its your job to decide what company will generate the most revenue and profit from the license. A lot of these letters are probably emotion driven, talking about how giving Isle of Capri/Nationwide Realty the license will save the job and for that reason alone, they should be awarded the license. As a business analyst, it is my job to look at things objectively, and I have applied this logic to this situation.

So when we boil it down, we've got 2 good options as far as who would be candidates for the license, Harrah's/Forest City and Isle of Capri/Nationwide Realty. ~~Harrah's~~ The following reasons why the Isle of Capri option is better for your control board, given your ultimate goal of achieving the highest possible earnings.

- ① Location - Harrah's potential of location of Station Square is in an area of town that is difficult access. Station Square is not easily accessible to Pittsburgh's major highways!

Comments: Page 2 (continued)

Congestion from a casino in this area, would only add to the gridlock, frustrating future GOALS, and thereby decreasing profits. Isle of Capri's location in the Lower Hill is close to many of the city's main highways. This ease of access would be a key component of driving higher earnings.

② The big picture - In looking at this situation in the long term, it's important to factor in how this license will affect Pittsburgh in years to come. Sports matters in Pittsburgh, and if fans leave, so will a lot of current residents. Looking at the facts, if the fans don't get a arena, they are gone, for no other options have come up. w/ no fans, there will be a loss of \$100M in revenue to the city each year. This loss of revenue will have a direct impact on your slots business. People will not be here visiting during hockey season, and the loss of revenue from these lost clientele will hurt your overall earnings, if Harrah's were to win the license. Now if Isle of Capri is awarded the license, it's a win-win. You get the continued business of the hockey community and the city gets a team that will bring in revenue and keep people in Pittsburgh.

③ Revenue Projections - I understand that Harrah's/Forest City has submitted a projection of what their revenues will be. I call to you to really analyze these figures. How can their numbers be so much higher than Isle of Capri? With only one casino in Pittsburgh, it's reasonable to assume that revenue expectations should be roughly consistent across all applicants for the license. For the benefit of your decision please look into an "independent study" that Harrah's has done, and ask yourself, given the factors I have above, wouldn't we be better in going w/ Isle of Capri?

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

Jeff Brandini



**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: Charles Swart

Address:

Telephone:

Organization, if any: Ohio University

Employer:

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

Comments: Page 2 (continued)

As a master's level transportation engineer I know Harrah's Casino has used over inflated vehicle occupancy estimates to generate their appealing projected revenues for their proposed casino in Pittsburgh. I am also well aware that the already problematic traffic in the locale of their establishment would only decay from its already deficient present state. If this casino is opened it will be painfully obvious to the city, both in terms of traffic flow and generation of revenue, that these estimates were based upon flawed data. This is a habit Harrah's is notorious of, most notably the Harrah's in New Orleans. Simply comparing their plan to all others makes their tactics visible to anyone not wearing blinders.

Through a loophole Harrah's was able to enlist Forest City Enterprises as their proxy to apply for the city's sole license since they already operate another casino within the state. Their outfit is rife with connections to Governor Rendell and Pittsburgh politicians Bob O'Conner and Dan Onorato- most glaringly John Verbanac, O'Conner's advisor during the last mayoral campaign and present consultant to Forest City Enterprises. Bruce Ratner's Forest City Enterprises also mimicked the elusive actions being taken by Harrah's when they inflated projections in order to claim a large plot of land, against the wishes of the locals, for development in Brooklyn. After this was secured they proceeded to defy nearly every promise or projection made when presenting their plan while infuriating residents.

The city of Pittsburgh is in dire need of legitimate rehabilitation, not nebulous incremental property tax decreases that will essentially never be felt by those who Harrah's campaign tactic is targeting. The promises made by Harrah's, both monetary and otherwise, are miniscule compared to the reward of being the sole proprietor of gambling on a mass scale in Pittsburgh. The majority of the money being committed by Harrah's to the city will be used to benefit an area of interest to them, Station Square, since this is where their proposed parlor will stand.

The duplicitous nature of the entire process is reason enough to be suspicious of its outcome and participants. The selection of the casino plan which provides the most for the future of the city of Pittsburgh is paramount. Should Isle of Capri not be granted the license it will only underscore the ineptitude and corruption of this government at both the state and local levels. If Isle of Capri were awarded the license, however, the opposite would be the case.

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

Charles Swart



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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 Miller

Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Organization, if any: _____

Employer: _____

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

The decision on Pittsburgh's slots license will be vital for the city if it is awarded to the right organization. One plan, from The Isle of Capri, looks to develop an area of the city that is in desperate need of a revitalization. A billion dollar development would give that area of town a chance to thrive with new business and employment opportunities. Also the plan offers a new complex that would replace the outdated Civic Arena. Both of these things could help the city a great deal. The city will eventually need a new arena, and the Isle of Capri provides an upfront benefit that cannot be taken away. Future promises by any of the three entities could be changed down the line if business does not

Comments: Page 2 (continued)

A new structure at a cost of \$290 million is a benefit the city would get now. Promises of property tax relief in the future come with no guarantees.

I also strongly believe that location of the new slots complex ~~should be scrutinized.~~ Station Square already has major traffic issue. Added attractions would only magnify the problem. While work could be done to alleviate the problem in theory, based on the location I believe a solution is unlikely. The Majestic Star proposal has a better location than Forest City, but as with Station Square, the North Shore is already a developed area of the city with the new stadiums. The Hill District is the most logical choice for the future of the city.

It is my hope that the gaming board will be impartial in its deliberations. ~~If the board ignores political pressures and alliances, does not rely on financial figures given by each group and performs its own due diligence, I believe that it will select the best plan for Pittsburgh's future - The Isle of Capri plan. Thank you.~~

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





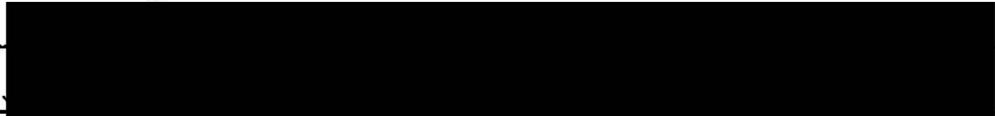
**Pennsylvania
Gaming Control Board**

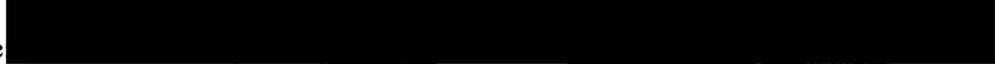


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I request that the following comments be made part of the public input hearing record and considered by the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board prior to awarding licenses for slot operators:

Name: Mario Lemieux

Address: 

Telephone: 

Organization, if any: _____

Employer: Pittsburgh Penguins / Lemieux Group

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

Please see attached comments

I am writing to support Isle of Capri's application for the Pittsburgh slots license. In my view, the plan conceived by Isle of Capri and Pittsburgh First is absolutely the best for our city and our region.

I came to Pittsburgh in 1984 as an 18-year-old hockey player from Montreal with a very limited command of English. Since that time, I have grown to love the city and made it my home. My four children were born here, we are raising our family here, my charitable foundation is based here, and, although I am not a native, my roots in Pittsburgh run deep.

I was fortunate to be a part of two Stanley Cup championship teams with the Pittsburgh Penguins and have my number retired by the organization. In the midst of the team's bankruptcy in 1999, I helped assemble a group of investors that bought the team and kept it in Pittsburgh during a tenuous financial period. The goal always has been to keep the Penguins here for the long term, and that is not affected by our recent decision to put the team up for sale and find new ownership. The Penguins are part of Pittsburgh, and they belong here.

Since gaining ownership of the team in September, 1999, we have worked passionately – and spent millions of dollars – in an effort to get a new multi-purpose arena that would, in fact, solidify the Penguins' future. Despite our best efforts, however, we have been unable to achieve our goal. The arrival of gaming presented one last opportunity to succeed in our arena quest before the team's lease expires in 2007. Accordingly, we spoke with multiple gaming companies about this unique and exciting sequence of possibilities.

Isle of Capri, above all others, stepped forward. As you know, Isle of Capri has committed \$290 million to fully fund construction of a new multi-purpose arena for Pittsburgh if it wins the local slots license. Moreover, it will write a check for \$290 million within 90 days of receiving the license – and that funding has been approved and underwritten by one of the largest banks in the world, CIBC. Accordingly, the city and region will not have to worry about bonding or debt payments, or even about the relative success of the casino over 30 years. Everyone from the Governor of Pennsylvania to the Allegheny County Executive to the Mayor of Pittsburgh has talked about the importance of a new arena in Pittsburgh, but only with the Isle of Capri plan are we assured that the arena is a done deal.

Beyond that, however, there are clear and immense advantages for Pittsburgh and Pennsylvania if Isle of Capri gets the license. One of the other partners in the Pittsburgh First coalition is Nationwide Realty Development, and Nationwide is a significant component of this \$1 billion-plus development project. With a new casino as the crown jewel and a new arena as the catalyst, the project also will feature a \$350 million

redevelopment of the Lower Hill District and Uptown, enabling us to revitalize and re-energize an area of our city that has been neglected for far too long.

Plans call for the new arena to be built on land across from the current Mellon Arena, between Centre and Fifth Avenues, bordering Washington Place. Once the new arena is ready, the current Arena will be demolished, opening a 28-acre parcel of land for a truly magnificent redevelopment opportunity on the edge of our downtown -- an urban opportunity unique in 21st century America.

As the Reverend James Simms, a Hill District resident and chairman of the Board of Advisors for Pittsburgh First, has said, "Fifty years ago we tore down a neighborhood to build an arena. Now, we can tear down an arena and build a neighborhood."

Working with community leaders, Nationwide will spearhead the construction of a wide range of housing, retail, office space and core community needs (such as a grocery store for the residents of the Hill and Uptown). Nationwide has overseen numerous successful development projects in the Pittsburgh region, including those at the Homestead Waterfront, the South Side and the North Side, and it also has gained many accolades for its spectacular "arena district" development plan around the new multi-purpose arena in Columbus, Ohio.

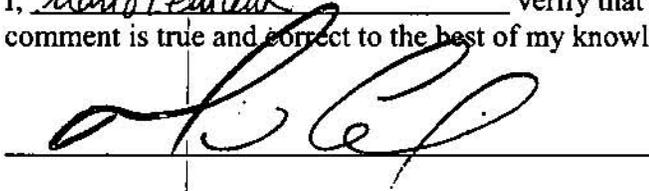
In addition, Isle of Capri will pledge \$1 million annually, over the course of 30 years, to a Hill District community fund.

As you know, one of the main goals of Pennsylvania's gaming legislation is to provide property tax relief for our citizens. For the record, Isle of Capri's revenue projections are consistent with those established by the independent consultant hired by the state and are, therefore, based in reality. One revenue advantage that may have been overlooked, however, is the unusual opportunity created by having a multi-purpose arena situated in close proximity to the casino. The Penguins play 43 home games each season and, even in 2005-06, when the team was in last place, averaged almost 16,000 fans per game. A number of concerts and other events at the arena during any calendar year will draw in excess of 10,000 patrons and often as many as 17,000. Simply by having that many patrons, out for a night of entertainment, so close to the casino, is a fantastic marketing opportunity and is bound to have a positive effect on the bottom line. So when you consider the need for revenue to provide property tax relief, I ask that you take this underpublicized casino-arena synergy into account.

All three Pittsburgh slots applicants have done their homework and should be commended for their efforts. However, it is clear to me that one proposal stands above all the others in its benefits for our city and our region. Isle of Capri has pledged to make a massive financial commitment that will have wide-ranging effects for decades in Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania. They deserve your approval.

Comments: Page 2 (continued)

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



A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Mario Lemieux', is written over a horizontal line.



Pennsylvania
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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: JAMES J. AUGUST

Address:

Telephone:

Organization, if any:

Employer: BURKE-PARSON-Bowlby Corp

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

Dear members of the Pennsylvania Gaming Board;
I am writing you to express my views and opinion on the evidence hearings for building a new arena for the Pittsburgh Penguins and a casino in the city of Pittsburgh. First, I ask that you keep an open mind as you review the evidence. Please do not succumb under the pressure of our governor or special interest lobbying groups, especially ones that show support for Harrah's. Don't let "big money organization" force you into a bad decision. The traffic tieups at Station Square, where the arena and casino would be built, would be a nightmare. This area is so congested now and adding an arena and casino would make it impossible.

Comments: Page 2 (continued)

will stay at home and watch the game on instead of contending with atrocious traffic ties.
My opinion is to think of "Pittsburgh First." support the Isle of Capri's proposal to build a Penguin's an arena, build a casino, and renovate downtown and the lower Hill district. It is the best plan for Pittsburgh - stimulating the economy, creating new jobs, and keeping traffic ties to minimum. I implore you to use your best judgement and provide a gaming license to Isle of Capri casino. Your efforts will be appreciated by the Penguin's fans and fellow Pittsburghers. Mario saved this franchise once now it is your turn! Please don't let us down.

Sincerely yours,

James J. August

P.S. I sincerely + wholeheartedly concur with my husband's opinion + sentiment. Please support "Pittsburgh First!" Always, Mrs. Pamela S. August

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

James J. August



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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: JOAN A. KENLEY

Address:

Telephone:

Organization, if any:

Employer: PALLOK HOUSE RESTAURANT

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

I AM GRATEFUL FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY THAT YOU, AS BOARD MEMBERS, HAVE GIVEN ME TO EXPRESS MY FEELINGS ON THE AWARDED ASLOTS LICENSE TO THE CITY OF PITTSBURGH. I HAVE BEEN VISITING THE CITY SINCE I'VE BEEN QUITE YOUNG. MY LOVE FOR THE CITY AND IT'S SPORTS TEAMS ARE SUCH THAT PEOPLE ASK ME I AM A NATIVE PITTSBURGHER. I HAVE BEEN QUITE CONCERNED FOR A FEW YEARS NOW AS TO WHAT MAY HAPPEN TO MY BELOVED PENQUINS. MY FEARS WERE SOMEWHAT ALLAYED WHEN THE NHL SOLVED IT'S LABOR DISPUTE. BUT MY REAL JOY CAME WHEN A SLOTS APPLICANT NAMED JIM OF CARLI STEPPED UP TO THE PLATE. THE PENQUINS

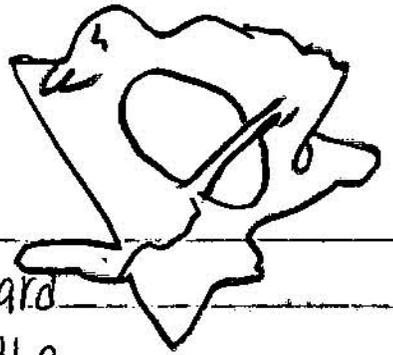
... AN ANSWER I...

Comments: Page 2 (continued)

SINCE THE SLOTS BILL HAD PASSED. THAT ANSWER CAME W
"PITTSBURGH FIRST" WAS FORMED. THEIR PLANS OF A NEW
ARENA, SLOTS PARLOR, AND REVITALIZATION OF THE HILL
DISTRICT COULD BE A GIANT STEP IN CURING A FINAN
TROUBLED CITY AND HOCKEY TEAM. THE VOICES BEHI
PITTSBURGH-FIRST ARE NOT JUST ISLE OF CAPRI AND T
PENQUINS ORGANIZATION. THEY ARE PEOPLE LIKE MY
IN OR OUT OF THE CITY, WHO WANT PITTSBURGH TO CA
TO THRIVE THROUGH BUSINESS, SPORTS, AND ENTERTAINMENT.
I MIMAGINE, THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE IN A BEAUTIFUL SECTI
OF THE CITY GETTING ANY KIND OF ENTERTAINMENT THEY
COULD WANT, ALL WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE. THE PENQUIN
ORGANIZATION HAS CHOSEN THE BEST PEOPLE TO MAKE TH
HAPPEN. MARIO LEMIEUX WOULD NEVER ACCEPT ANYTHIN
LESS WHEN IT COMES TO SAVING HIS TEAM. NOW AS PART
"HIS TEAM" OF "PITTSBURGH FIRST" I ASK YOU TO ACCEPT NOTH
LESS THAN THE BEST PLAN AVAILABLE. ISLE OF CAPRI HAS
PRESENTED YOU THAT PLAN. THANK YOU FOR ACCEPTING
COMMENTS. MORE IMPORTANTLY, HEARING WHAT'S IN MY HEA

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

Save the Pens!



Dear Pennsylvania gaming control board
I'm writing to you about saving the
Pittsburgh Penguins. You can't just send
them away like a box or something. They
are people just like you and me, these guys
don't deserve this and for everythinge
Mario Lemieux has done for the city
and the Penguins you can't take them from
him. Pittsburgh is the Penguins home they
shouldn't have to even think about leaving!
New York has two hockey teams, two baseball
teams, two football, and a basketball team.
The Pirates went through what the Penguins
are going through so did the Steelers ~~you don't~~
You don't see them gone do you! When I was
little I always run around saying go Pens
go Mario I always dreamed of going to my
first game. I love the Penguins, I love the
city of Pittsburgh and I love Sidney Crosby

I will do whatever it takes
to save the pens.

I SUPPORT PITTSBURGH ^{a penguins}
FIRST ^{Fan!} Lindsey
shellhammer



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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: Mrs. Dow Malnati

Address:

Telephone:

Organization, if any:

Employer: retired

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

see p. 2

Comments: Page 2 (continued)

To: The Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board
From: Dow Malnati
Re: Slots License
Date: 21 May 2006

I write you as a concerned citizen, one who (with my husband), selected Pittsburgh as a retirement destination – because of the many cultural and sporting events offered here. We bought a home in Wexford, for its easy access to the city, and currently drive to Pittsburgh 3.-5 times a week to attend a game and/or an event in the cultural district.

We have always been fans of the Pirates, Penguins and Steelers, which is what initially led to our interest in moving here permanently upon retirement. However, shortly after our arrival here in 1998, we were worried that the city would lose our beloved Pirates. Thankfully an ownership group saved the team and a beautiful new ballpark was opened.

Now we are worried about the loss of the Penguins. And that would not only be a huge disappointment for us, but would be a major loss for the entire city. Obviously a new arena is vital to the team. The Isle of Capri offers that, and more.

The location for the Isle of Capri Casino is the option that would be best for the city as a whole. Station Square does not need more development. It is already attractive, and access is limited. The North Shore is being developed, and continues to attract new business. The area of the city that would most benefit from further development is the area near the present Mellon Arena. Many groups and individuals are working on plans to revitalize the downtown area to attract new residents and businesses, and building a Casino near the city center would contribute to that revitalization.

I hope for the sake of our team and our city, that you will choose the Isle of Capri as the group to receive the slots license.

Thank you for your consideration of our thoughts and concerns.

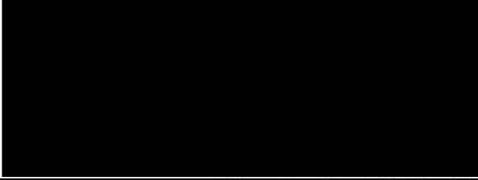
Dow and Bob Malnati



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

Dow Malnati

JOSEPH F. LAGANA



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

May 21, 2006

To whom it may concern:

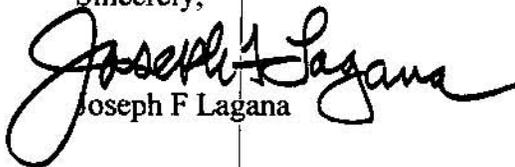
I am a life long, tax paying homeowner living in Downtown Pittsburgh. I am extremely interested in the three casino proposals. After careful review of the proposals, I have concluded that Pittsburgh First, the Alliance of the Isle of Capri Casinos, Pittsburgh Penguins, and Nationwide Realty Investors holds the most promise for the future of the Pittsburgh Region.

It has the best location and the potential to connect the Lower Hill District to the Central Business District, Cultural District and The Strip. The synergy from that connectivity can serve as a tremendous economic engine for housing and business development creating a stronger tax base and a new, exciting and vibrant neighborhood. It will rid the City of a fifty year barrier between the Lower Hill and the Downtown area.

I am excited about the notion that Pittsburgh First has the support and commitment of the Pittsburgh Penguins in the Alliance. The Alliance has found a creative way to keep the Penguins in Pittsburgh while not relying on tax dollars for the construction of the new arena.

I am hopeful that you will look with favor upon the Pittsburgh First proposal because it was determined to be the best by the Pittsburgh Gaming Task force.

Sincerely,


Joseph F Lagana



*Mayor
Anthony L. DeLuca*

*Council
Sara Jayne Kuhn,
Deputy Mayor
Yvonne Lamanna
Dr. J-LaVon Kincaid, Sr.
Debra Costa
Controller
Beverly E. Scott*

May 22, 2006

Office of the Clerk
Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board
POB 69060
Harrisburg PA 17106

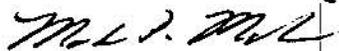
RE: Resolution of Support
Municipality of Penn Hills

Dear Sir or Madam:

I request that the attached Resolution, adopted by the Council of the Municipality of Penn Hills at a duly convened meeting, be made part of the public input hearing record and considered by the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board prior to awarding licenses for slot operators.

Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Marla P. Marcinko
Municipal Manager

MPM/

c: Pittsburgh First


Municipality of PENN HILLS

A HOME RULE COMMUNITY



MUNICIPALITY OF PENN HILLS

Resolution No. 2006 - 030

A RESOLUTION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF PENN HILLS, COUNTY OF ALLEGHENY, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, EXPRESSING ITS SUPPORT FOR THE ALLOCATION OF A CATEGORY 2 GAMING LICENSE TO THE ISLE OF CAPRI CASINO, INC., AND THE PITTSBURGH FIRST PLAN.

WHEREAS, one Category 2 Gaming License will be awarded to an applicant for the City of Pittsburgh by the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board and should be contingent on the best plan for Pittsburgh taxpayers and the region's economy; and,

WHEREAS, Pittsburgh First is an alliance among the Isle of Capri Casino, Inc., Nationwide Realty Investors, Inc., the Pittsburgh Penguins and the community; and,

WHEREAS, the Pittsburgh First--Isle of Capri Casino, Inc., development plan is the only plan that will privately fund the construction of a new multi-purpose arena, redevelop the current 28 acre Mellon Arena site placing this property back on the tax rolls and will building a first-class entertainment complex with 3,000 slot machines; and,

WHEREAS, while there is a need for a new multi-purpose arena in the City of Pittsburgh, no taxpayer dollars should be allocated to pay for the construction of such an arena.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council overwhelmingly support the allocation of a Category 2 Gaming License to the Isle of Capri Casino, Inc. and the Pittsburgh First Plan. **FURTHER**, that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Isle of Capri Casino, Inc., the City of Pittsburgh, the County of Allegheny and the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board.

THIS RESOLUTION APPROVED AND ADOPTED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF PENN HILLS ON THIS 15TH DAY OF MAY, A.D., 2006.



Anthony L. DeLuca
Mayor

05/15/06

Date



Marla P. Marcinko,
Manager

05/15/06

Date

SEAL



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: Lee Nizan

Address

Telephone

Organization, if any:

Employer: student

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

see page two

Comments: Page 2 (continued)

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Lee Nizan and I will be entering my senior year at Robert Morris University this fall. I am well on my way to a career in actuarial science, having already passed two actuarial exams and obtaining a summer internship this year in downtown Pittsburgh with a large consulting firm. Upon graduating, I will have many different career options from which to choose, both here in Pittsburgh and in other cities around the world. Many young people are moving out of Pittsburgh, and I often wonder if I will follow suit. I have a number of reasons why I might move away, but I can assure you that if the Pittsburgh Penguins are forced to move, it will be at the top of my list, as well as the lists of many other young Pittsburghers. It is for this reason that I support, and urge the Gaming Control Board to support, the Pittsburgh First plan and the Isle of Capri. Although I am admittedly not an expert on these plans, in my opinion the Pittsburgh First plan gives the most back to the city of Pittsburgh. Redeveloping the Hill District and building a multi-purpose arena to attract performers and tourists would be a huge step toward making Pittsburgh a city that young people would be proud to call home. Many politicians and other leaders constantly question why young Pittsburghers are leaving in large numbers. If the best interests of the city of Pittsburgh and its citizens are placed behind other people's best interests, then there will be no need for speculation. The young people of Pittsburgh will simply move to a city that places the best interests of its citizens and city above all else. Once again, I implore that you put the young people of Pittsburgh first and choose the Pittsburgh First plan and the Isle of Capri. Thank you for your time and consideration.

I, Lee Nizan 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



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: CHRISTIAN TOTH

Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED] .COM

Organization, if any: _____

Employer: _____

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

I AM writing you because, I care very deeply about the city of Pittsburgh and the state of PA. I think, along with many others that there is a perfect opportunity to help keep the region moving forward, and that is to award the PITT SLOTS license to the ISLE OF CAPRI. This guarantees the penguins future in the city and helps to revitalize the Hill District as well as uptown and downtown with a new arena, retail, houses and restaurants. The location is the best in the city with close access

Comments: Page 2 (continued)

TO DOWNTOWN AND THE CONVENT CENTER AND NORTH SHORE DEVELOPMENT. THIS WILL CREATE ANOTHER DESTINATION FOR THE CITY AND ENHANCE THE MANY OTHER PROJECTS DOWNTOWN. IT ALSO COULD CREATE EXTRA REVENUE FOR THE CASINO CITY, WITH 17,000 TO 18,000 CUSTOMERS A WEEK. SOME WILL INEVITABLY VISIT THE CASINO. I AM NOT A RESIDENT OF THE CITY AT THIS TIME BUT I CARE A LOT ABOUT THIS AREA AND THE PEOPLE HERE. I WILL RETURN HOME ONE DAY BECAUSE I KNOW THE CITY OF PITTSBURGH WILL RETURN TO GREATNESS, LET'S HELP ENSURE THAT TIME IS ONE DAY CLOSER AND AWARD THE PITTSBURGH SLOTS LICENSURE TO THE ISLE OF CAPRI-PENGUINS.

Christian Tott

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

Christian M. Tott



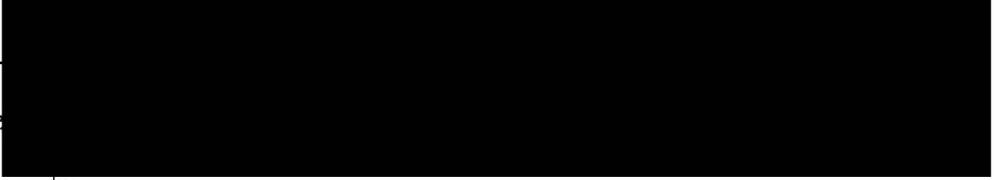
Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board



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: MARIE REVIS

Address: 

Telephone: _____

Organization, if any: _____

Employer: College Student - Sr. Human Resource Management Technology
Job Change - Career from medical field LPN

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

I feel this is a good idea. That can only strengthen the Hill District. It will move the drug situations out off front streets. Because I know when New Jersey got their's. It changed the community. I didn't see plots of money put in transforming the community around the casino prep's. So I hope Pgh. will be different and they will built up the community instead

Because when casinos come in, they want all the money. So by closing everything up in the community area's they get there why.

The show on center is a mess. That could be turned into a

cultural area. Jazz, and Black experience itself can be preserved.

The Hill is trying not to be forgotten. I grew up in Bridgville, but I can remember coming to the hill as a child stores, and people should not be forgotten.

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

Mans Lewis 5/11/06

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: DR. PAUL KASOVICH

Address:

Telephone:

Organization, if any:

Employer:

Blackhawk School District

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

DEAR Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board,

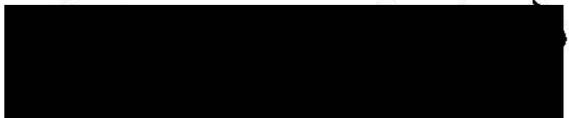
I am writing in support of the Isle of Capri plan for the Pittsburgh slots license. As a life long resident of Pittsburgh I believe this plan provides the greatest economic stimulus to the greater Pittsburgh area. The fact that the Isle of Capri has committed to building a multi purpose arena (4090 Bill) as well as to develop the lower Hill District (200 Billion) suggests a commitment to the city that is not easy to make.

Furthermore the Isle of Capri proposal will ensure the continuing existence of the Pittsburgh Penguins. This is an important consideration because the team belongs revenue into the city. During the NHL lock out the city lost an estimated 50 million dollars.

The vitality of the region
 is at stake. The proposal uses no tax money
 to finance the new development. This proposal is the
 most realistic and economic
 sound for the future of Pittsburgh.

Sincerely,
 Dr. Paul Kusner

Dr. Paul Kusner



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

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

FRANK LaGROTTA, MEMBER



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

May 8, 2006

Tad Decker, Chairman
PA Gaming Control Board
5th Floor, Verizon Tower
Strawberry Square
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dear Chairman Decker:

As a representative of the Commonwealth who calls western Pennsylvania my home, I wish to share my opinion with you regarding the award of the pending Pittsburgh gaming license. I appreciate the opportunity to submit this letter as written testimony to be entered into the evidentiary record along with the many others who have submitted written comments.

When Pennsylvania was investigating the impacts of gaming in order to write appropriate legislation, the Commonwealth sought advice from Innovation Group, the largest and most active firm performing gaming market analyses in the United States. Over the last 14 years, Innovation Group compiled data to fund over \$40 billion of projects and their clients, including foreign governments, state governments and municipalities around the globe. The data prepared for the Commonwealth was thoroughly scrutinized by a number of state agencies, universities, independent economists and the media. The forecasts prepared by the Innovation Group withstood the scrutiny and were accepted by all parties as the gaming outlook for the Commonwealth.

In Pittsburgh, there has been a great deal of discussion related to the size of the gaming market with some numbers ranging 50 percent higher than Innovation Group estimates. I understand that gaming revenue forecasts are not an exact science; however, I find it difficult to believe that our Commonwealth could underestimate the market size of Pittsburgh by 50 percent.

Given the quality of the three Pittsburgh gaming operators, it is obvious to me that no one casino development will generate significantly more gaming revenue than another. I have examined the proposals before you, and I believe that the actual revenues may be best determined by site access because gaming patrons demand easy access. The Isle of Capri proposal offers the best access and therefore provides the best proposal for Pittsburgh.

COMMITTEES

TOURISM & RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
CHAIRMAN

AGRICULTURE & RURAL AFFAIRS

MEMBER

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS ADVISORY
COMMITTEE

PA HIGHER EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES
AUTHORITY

PA LEGISLATIVE CHILDREN'S CAUCUS

PA LEGISLATIVE PRO-LIFE CAUCUS

PA STATE PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDING
AUTHORITY

PENN STATE CAUCUS

LEGISLATIVE FIREFIGHTERS AND
EMERGENCY SERVICES CAUCUS

SPORTSMEN'S CAUCUS

The Isle of Capri plan offers the additional benefits of \$290 million for construction of a new arena, which will keep the Penguins in Pittsburgh and will redevelop the Uptown and Hill Districts. The opportunity for our region to build a new arena without debt or public funds in addition to reviving a struggling area of Pittsburgh remains a top priority for me.

I ask the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board to grant the Pittsburgh gaming license to Isle of Capri Casinos, Inc.

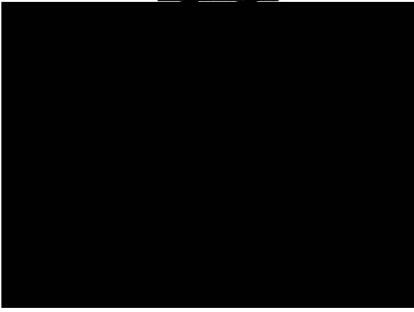
Thank you for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Frank LaGrotta". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned centrally below the word "Sincerely,".

FRANK LaGROTTA, MEMBER
House of Representatives

STATE SENATOR
JANE CLARE ORIE
40TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT



Senate of Pennsylvania

COMMITTEES

- AGING AND YOUTH, CHAIR
- PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE, VICE CHAIR
- APPROPRIATIONS
- EDUCATION
- JUDICIARY
- POLICY
- JOINT HOUSE AND SENATE AUTISM COMMITTEE
- CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND BOARD
- TEAN PA BOARD
- WOMEN IN GOVERNMENT BOARD
- WORKING FAMILIES TASK FORCE
- AMERICAN-ITALIAN CAUCUS
- ARTHRITIS AND OSTEOPOROSIS CAUCUS
- FIREFIGHTER AND EMERGENCY SERVICES CAUCUS
- IRISH CAUCUS

March 6, 2006

Tad Decker, Chairman
PA Gaming Control Board
P.O. Box 69060
Harrisburg, PA 17106-9060

Dear Chairman Decker:

Although I will not be presenting oral testimony at the Gaming Control Board's public hearings in Pittsburgh on April 19th and 20th, 2006, I would like to take this opportunity to submit written comments in support of the application submitted by Isle of Capri Casinos, Inc.

Of the applications for the Category 2 casino license in the city of Pittsburgh, only the proposal submitted by the gaming partner of the Pittsburgh Penguins, Isle of Capri Casinos, Inc., a Biloxi, Mississippi company, has publicly committed funding that will directly benefit the city. Overall, this application offers the best casino gambling option for our city, our region, and our taxpayers for a number of reasons.

First, as you know, the granting of the casino license to Isle of Capri Casinos, Inc. will directly result in the construction of a new \$290 million arena for the Pittsburgh Penguins hockey team, with no state or local tax dollars required. Instead of tax dollars, the gaming revenue resulting from this casino license will be used to ensure that Pittsburgh remains the home of the Pittsburgh Penguins by creating a multi-purpose arena. With the Gaming Control Board estimating that the Category 2 licensee in Pittsburgh will take in between \$450 million and \$650 million per year, any selected licensee should commit some of these revenues to the community. Only Isle of Capri Casinos, Inc. has made such a commitment, by partnering with the Pittsburgh Penguins.

Second, Isle of Capri Casinos, Inc. has committed to community revitalization and economic development in its selected location. This proposal is an economic impetus for the revitalization of the city of Pittsburgh's Hill District – a revitalization that will occur at no cost to the taxpayers. The Penguins and Isle of Capri Casinos, Inc. have

Page #2
Tad Decker, Chairman
PA Gaming Control Board
March 9, 2006

pledged to return to the community any profits earned as a result of the proposed \$400 million community redevelopment of the lower Hill District by Nationwide Realty Investors of Columbus, Ohio. These profits are in addition to the \$1 million per year that the Isle of Capri has promised to donate for community development from casino profits.

And third, the geographic location selected by Isle of Capri Casinos, Inc. is accessible and will not require taxpayer funded infrastructure improvements to maintain accessibility. With an expected draw of over six million visitors a year, ten times the number of people who attend a Steelers football game over the course of a year, the Category 2 licensee's facility will be an integral part of the city. Because of the existing transportation network in this section of the city, the location of the Isle of Capri's casino in the Hill District is the preferable location when compared to the other sites in the city.

Pittsburgh and the entire region will benefit from the proposed investment by the Isle of Capri Casinos, Inc. The investment will occur in a location where economic development efforts and new job creation are vital and sorely needed. Through this economic development, needed revenues will be generated that will help the city of Pittsburgh emerge from the current fiscal crisis and will ensure that the city of Pittsburgh is once again an economic hub for the region. The proposal put forth by Isle of Capri Casinos, Inc., in conjunction with the Pittsburgh Penguins, is a win-win situation for both the City of Pittsburgh and for the region as a whole.

As the Gaming Control Board evaluates the applications for the Category 2 license in the city of Pittsburgh, I would urge that it take into account not only the financial feasibility of the proposal, but select the proposal that will provide the best benefit for the city and the region as a whole. The Isle of Capri Casinos application offers the best option for the city and our region, as well as the Commonwealth.

I appreciate the Board's consideration of my comments as it works to select the Category 2 licensee for the city of Pittsburgh. If you have any questions on my comments, please call.

Sincerely,

JANE CLARE ORIE
State Senator
40th Senatorial District

JCO/mmh

cc. Dan Stambaugh, Liaison
PA Gaming Control Board



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: Michele Rone Cooper

Address:

Telephone:

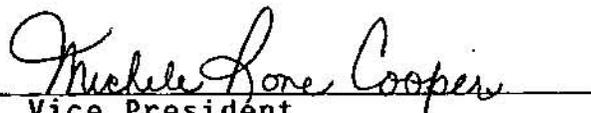
Organization, if any:

Employer: Pittsburgh Mercy Health System

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

Comments: Page 2 (continued)

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



Vice President
Planning/Marketing/Healthy Communities
Pittsburgh Mercy Health System

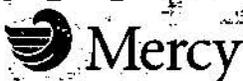
Pittsburgh Mercy Health System

Kenneth A. Eshak
President and Chief Executive Officer

April 17, 2006

Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board
PO Box 69060
Harrisburg, PA 17106-9060

Dear Members of the Gaming Control Board:



Thank you for this opportunity to provide input regarding the selection of an organization to establish gaming in the City of Pittsburgh. The Mercy Hospital of Pittsburgh has specific interest in your selection. Mercy Hospital is located in the Uptown community on 1400 Locust Street. Uptown is the proposed location of the casino by the Isle of Capri, in conjunction with the Pittsburgh Penguins, and Pittsburgh First, a community based organization that will guide spin-off development in the Hill District and Uptown.

We believe it is important that the Gaming Control Board understand the impact of the Isle of Capri proposal on Mercy Hospital, and the positive manner in which the Isle of Capri has attempted to address our concerns. Mercy Hospital employs over 3,100 employees, and provides medical care for over 21,000 inpatients, 44,000 emergency patients, and 177,000 outpatients per year. We currently lease 800 parking spaces on the Melody Tent site adjacent to the Mellon Arena for use by our employees. Within two years, the Isle of Capri proposal would eliminate these spaces, potentially creating a hardship for our employees and for our operations. We are also concerned about the disruption to operations and the ease of travel to our facility for our employees and patients during construction and later during full operation of the casino.

We are, however, pleased with the proactive manner in which Isle of Capri has discussed our concerns. We have met several times with Isle of Capri officials, and they are working with us to address the implications of their proposal on Mercy Hospital, our employees, and patients. Through their interaction with the Sports and Exhibition Authority, they have assured us that that we will have adjacent parking to replace the Melody Tent parking for 18 months to provide ample time for Mercy to evaluate and develop alternative parking. Isle of Capri has asked Mercy to collaborate with them to provide health care services for their employees and casino guests. The management has outlined several initiatives to address gambling addiction, including working with Mercy Behavioral Health to train Isle staff to recognize the signs of addiction. We are encouraged by these initial signs that the Isle of Capri fully appreciates the impact of a casino on the community, and that they intend to be a good neighbor to Uptown and Hill District businesses and residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken Eshak", written over a horizontal line.

Kenneth A. Eshak
President and CEO

43RD DISTRICT
JAY COSTA



Senate of Pennsylvania

COMMITTEES

JUDICIARY, DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN
PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE
TRANSPORTATION
POLICY

INDUSTRIAL RESOURCE CENTER STRATEGIC
ADVISORY BOARD

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ON SENTENCING

PENNSYLVANIA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

BANK OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT COMMISSION

April 11, 2006

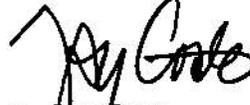
The Honorable Tad Decker, Chairman
Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board
PO Box 69060
Harrisburg, PA 17106-9060

Dear Chairman Decker,

Please find enclosed my remarks to be part of the record created from the public hearings that will occur in the City of Pittsburgh on April 18, 19 and May 10, 2006. I submit these remarks as testimony to be included for the consideration of the Board for its decision in siting a Class 1 or Class 2 gaming facility in or around the City of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County.

Thank you for including these remark and as always, if you or any of the members of the Board require additional information, please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,


Jay Costa
43rd Senatorial District

JC:RJ

enclosure

Cc: Members of the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board

[Faint, illegible text at the bottom of the page]

Senator Jay Costa
43rd State Senatorial District
Testimony to the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board
April 11, 2006

Chairman Decker and members of the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board, I respectfully submit the following testimony for your consideration regarding the award of a license to operate a Class 1 or Class 2 gaming facility in the City of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania.

As you are keenly aware, the award of a license for the operation of a gaming facility in or around the City of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County presents a "once in a lifetime opportunity."

The careful review of all plans submitted will require detailed attention to maximize the economic benefit to the residents of the city and county as well as to the governing bodies who will benefit from increased revenues generated from gaming proceeds. Additionally, the siting of a facility must carefully consider criteria as varied as the ease of ingress and egress to the gaming facility, the potential effect on the businesses that currently operate and the effect on the composition of the surrounding community.

Over the last several years, city planners and private developers have done an excellent job of utilizing various portions of the city for specific purposes that individually enhance the dynamic culture of the city while synergistically sustaining each other in the whole. For instance, the city has developed unique shopping areas, theater districts, sports venues and vibrant residential communities. Misplacing the siting of a gaming facility could upset the careful balance that is required to keep these enterprises moving efficiently.

One of the areas of the city that has not undergone the rapid redevelopment experienced by the city in its downtown, southside and north shore is the lower hill district of the City of Pittsburgh that lies in and around the current Civic Arena. It is my opinion that this area is ripe for redevelopment and would make an excellent site for the location of a gaming facility in the City of Pittsburgh.

At this time, only one applicant has proposed a plan that provides for the redevelopment of that area—the Isle of Capri. The Isle of Capri application for a gaming license has gone far and above any other applicant's proposal for several reasons. First, the Isle of Capri has already pledged its private funds—not part of the gaming revenue already dedicated to state or local governments—to the construction of a new arena in the City of Pittsburgh that would be the home of the National Hockey League Pittsburgh Penguins. It is vital to the economy and to the sense of civic pride of the city and region that the Penguins remain in Pittsburgh. The construction of a new arena guarantees that objective.

More importantly, the construction of a new arena in the City of Pittsburgh produces immediate employment opportunities in the construction and building trades over and above those that would be attendant to the construction of a gaming facility on its own. The continuing economic benefits of a new arena would continue as the site would enhance Pittsburgh's ability to host premier entertainment and sporting events that require a smaller facility such as NCAA tournaments, Ringling Brothers Circus, Ice Capades and concerts to name several examples.

Further, the Isle of Capri application provides more than just the construction of a new sports arena. It also includes a comprehensive plan for the redevelopment of the lower Hill District in the city of Pittsburgh promising additional retail and residential mixed-use communities that have been popular in other parts of the city but which have not reached this section to this point. The redevelopment of this area would be highly beneficial as it would provide a badly needed economic "shot in the arm" to a part of the city that has not presently experienced the resurgence of other neighborhoods.

The siting of a gaming facility in this area of the city will also likely maximize the ease of ingress and egress to the facility and the surrounding redeveloped area as well. The site would place the gaming facility at an area that is easily reached from all parts of the city and surrounding community by an interstate connector (I-579). The siting would also find itself on major bus and commuter routes easing access to work for the many individuals who will find employment at the gaming facility, arena and proposed surrounding business district.

I would also comment that because the Isle of Capri's plan calls for the siting of a gaming facility and redevelopment of a previously untapped part of the city, it will have fewer negative consequences on those parts of the city that have been developed for different and unique purposes. Restaurants that currently exist on the Southside or businesses on the north shore will not be overtaken by the amenities that will be offered at the Isle of Capri's location. Rather, each part of the city will provide a distinct destination that offers the exclusive services the consumer desires.

It is my opinion that the Isle of Capri proposal is superior to any other submitted. More importantly, the Isle of Capri has already established a stellar reputation in the other areas where it operates. When it makes a pledge to do something, it stands behind it and completes the job. This is highly important when making such an important and consequential decision regarding the one and only time the Board will have in awarding a gaming license for our area.

I thank you for the opportunity to provide this written testimony. Best wishes in the important work that you have before you.

Senator Jay Costa

43rd Senatorial District

KARMAR REALTY GROUP, INC.

COMMERCIAL & INVESTMENT REAL ESTATE SERVICES

April 19, 2006

Mr. Tad Decker, Chairman
PA Gaming Control Board
PO Box 69060
Harrisburg, PA 17106

RE: PITTSBURGH SLOTS LICENSE

Mr. Decker,

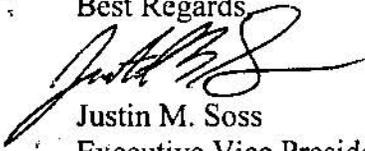
I am writing you today to voice my support for the Isle Of Capri plan to receive the highly coveted slots license for the Pittsburgh area. This weekend I am marrying a woman whose entire family (except one brother) resides in the Pittsburgh area. They have embraced me into their family since day one and in turn I have done the same with them and the great city of Pittsburgh.

Being from the Philadelphia area I was not sure what to expect when I first visited Pittsburgh. I can tell you I noticed three things right off the bat: 1.) The people were very welcoming 2.) The downtown area could use some work and 3.) This town loves its sports teams for better or for-worse.

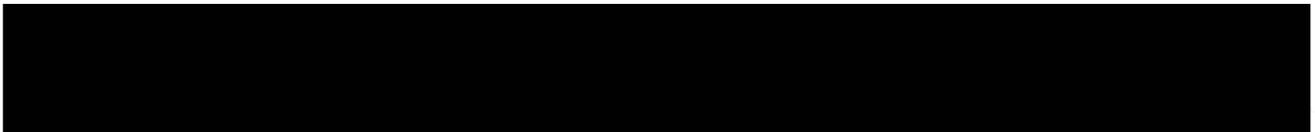
The Isle of Capri plan can help this great city retain one of its most beloved possessions (the Penguins) as well as revitalize the downtown area with exciting new real estate, jobs and standard of living. Amazingly this plan would be able to accomplish the aforementioned changes without hitting the taxpayers in their pockets.

Over the past three years I have grown to love the city of Pittsburgh for many reasons. I consider Pittsburgh to be my adopted home and I want what is best for it and the people who live in and around it. In my mind the Isle of Capri plan is the best solution to a disheartening problem. Please do not be responsible for taking away this city's chance at a wonderful new beginning on and off the ice and award the slots license to Isle of Capri.

Best Regards



Justin M. Soss
Executive Vice President
KarMar Realty Group, Inc





**Pennsylvania
Gaming Control Board**

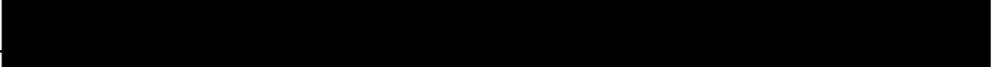


**WRITTEN COMMENT TO BE INCLUDED IN THE
EVIDENTIARY RECORD OF THE PUBLIC INPUT HEARINGS**

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: Representative Vince Biancucci

Address: 

Telephone: 

Organization, if any: PA House of Representatives net

Employer: Commonwealth of PA

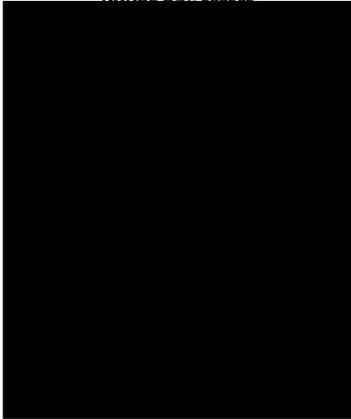
COMMENTS: (Please use second page if more space is required)

Comments: Page 2 (continued)

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

Vince Bianucci

VINCENT A. BIANCUCCI, MEMBER
15TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

AGING AND OLDER ADULT SERVICES,
SUBCOMMITTEE PROGRAMS & BENEFITS
DEMOCRATIC POLICY
HEALTHCARE EXCELLENCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY
RESPONSE TEAM (HEART)
FINANCE
BUDGET CONTROL, DEMOCRATIC SECRETARY
LOCAL GOVERNMENT, MEMBER,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON BOROUGHS

CAUCUSES

FIREFIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY SERVICES CAUCUS
ITALIAN CAUCUS
SOUTHWEST CAUCUS, TREASURER
JOINT STATE GOVERNMENT COMMISSION,
MEMBER, ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE
CONSUMER CREDIT CODE

May 31, 2006

Tad Decker, Chairman
Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board
P.O. Box 69060
Harrisburg, PA 17106-9060

Dear Chairman Decker,

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with my comments regarding the application filed by the Isle of Capri for a category 2 gaming license in the City of Pittsburgh. It is my desire that my thoughts are included as part of the evidentiary record. I would have preferred to address you in person, but unfortunately scheduling conflicts prohibited me from attending the local input hearings held in Pittsburgh. I want to express my support for the application filed with you by the Isle of Capri for a Category 2 facility in Pittsburgh.

It is my belief that the plan presented by the Isle of Capri is an opportunity to spur economic development for the entire region of Southwest Pennsylvania. I also believe that the gaming license should be used to benefit the public as a whole. Whether one is a slot machine gambler or not, all the citizens of this region will benefit from the proposal put forth by the Isle of Capri. The Isle of Capri has promised, as part of their gaming application, to privately fund the construction of a state-of-the-art multipurpose arena in addition to a world class casino all while the Hill District is redeveloped back into the vibrant neighborhood it was 50 years ago. Only the Isle of Capri is proposing to do all of this in one centralized location and put that forth in their application they filed on December 28, 2005.

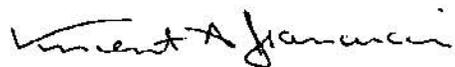
The awarding of a gaming license to one of the three applicants in Pittsburgh presents to the region a chance for economic development and redevelopment unlike at any other time in this region's history. Only the Isle of Capri in their initial proposal presented a plan to redevelop the Hill District, provide \$290 million dollars for a privately fund arena, and construct a world class casino.

The promise by the Isle of Capri to fully fund the construction of a new multi-use arena will allow the Penguins to continue to call Pittsburgh home in addition to providing a facility for family shows, world class concerts and world touring events for the long term. This plan is the only plan that ensures a tax dollar free arena. Any public funds used for an arena under any alternative plan could be used for property tax reduction or other infrastructure improvements around the region.

I support the Isle of Capri because I truly believe their first and foremost gaming priority in Pennsylvania will be operating their facility in Pittsburgh. I have looked over the lists of applicants and have no reason to believe they have any interest in any other casino in the state.

In conclusion, I again want to state my full support for the proposal presented by the Isle of Capri. I thank you for your time and I wish you the best on this crucial decision.

Very truly yours,



Representative Vincent Biancucci
15th House District
Pennsylvania House of Representatives



**Pennsylvania
Gaming Control Board**



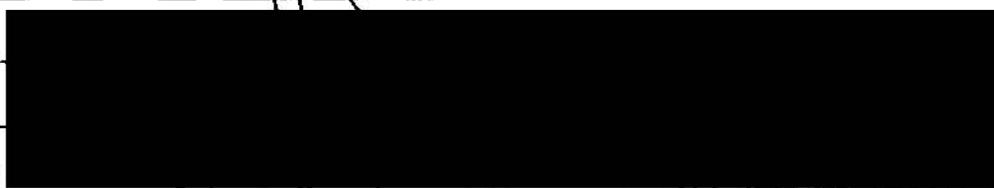
**WRITTEN COMMENT TO BE INCLUDED IN THE
EVIDENTIARY RECORD OF THE PUBLIC INPUT HEARINGS**

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:

John Pippy

Address:



Telephone:



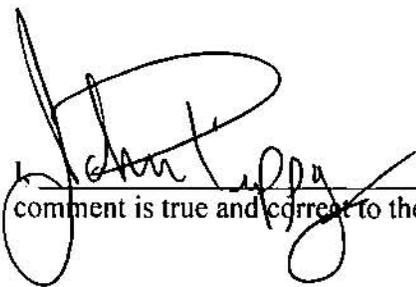
Organization, if any:

Employer:

Senate of PA

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

Comments: Page 2 (continued)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John L. ...". The signature is written over a horizontal line.

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



June 1, 2006

Mr. Tad Decker
Chairman
Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board
P.O. Box 69060
Harrisburg, PA 17106-9060

Dear Chairman Decker,

My name is Senator John Pippy and I currently represent the 37th District within the Pennsylvania Senate. As the Gaming Board reviews applicants for the stand alone slots facility in the City of Pittsburgh, I write to express my support for the proposal presented by the Isle of Capri, and respectfully request that my comments be included as part of the evidentiary record related to the Category 2 slots license for the City.

As you know four companies originally applied for the Category 2 casino license. One applicant (North Shore Gaming LP) has voluntarily withdrawn its application. Of the three remaining applicants, one in my opinion presents a better proposal for economic development, job creation, and tourism, promoting diversity and supporting our community than the others.

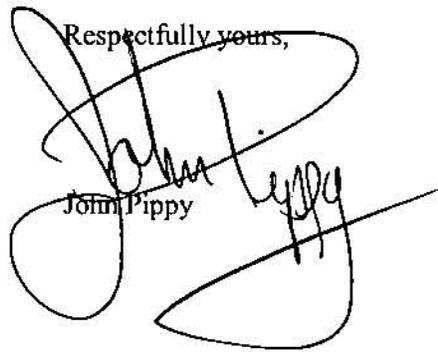
I believe that the plan presented by the Isle of Capri is superior for several reasons. First, Isle of Capri has demonstrated their desire to be a good corporate neighbor to our city and region from the very beginning. As you know, their commitment to fully fund the construction of a new multi-use arena is included within their gaming application. The Company's willingness to fund the construction of a new arena was not urged by any public official, but voluntarily offered in order to help the region, which was repeatedly told that public assistance dollars were not available for the project.

This new state-of-the-art arena will add to the attraction of our convention center district and allow the City to draw national conventions, shows, and events that the small and aging Mellon Arena currently cannot attract. Developing the Hill District and reconnecting this once vibrant neighborhood to the City's downtown area is extremely vital to the City's economic

viability. This is the only plan that proposes a new arena, a world class casino, and a redeveloped neighborhood in a single location. The Pittsburgh First coalition formed between the Isle of Capri, Pittsburgh Penguins, Nationwide Realty Investors, and the community desires to ignite the largest redevelopment project in the region's history while reconnecting two key sections of our city. Finally, the existing transportation network in and around the Isle of Capri's chosen location can easily handle any increased traffic resulting from a casino and the redevelopment. This site's accessibility makes it the preferred location when compared to the traffic patterns and problems in other sections of the City. In the end, taxpayer funded infrastructure improvements will not be needed.

As the Gaming Board evaluates the applications for a Category 2 facility for Pittsburgh, I would urge the Board to fully consider the components of each proposal. The Board members should select the application that provides the best comprehensive benefit to the City, county and region as a whole. For the reasons stated above, I reiterate my support for the proposal by the Isle of Capri. Thank you for your time on this matter of importance to the City of Pittsburgh and surrounding region.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Pippy". The signature is stylized with large loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end. It is positioned over the printed name "John Pippy".

John Pippy

JOSEPH F. MARKOSEK, MEMBER



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

COMMERCE, DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS,
SECRETARY
PENNSYLVANIA HIGHER EDUCATION
ASSISTANCE AGENCY (PHEAA)
BOARD MEMBER
AUTISM CAUCUS
FIREFIGHTERS CAUCUS
ALLEGHENY COUNTY DELEGATION
SOUTHWEST CAUCUS
LOW LEVEL WASTE ADVISORY

June 2, 2006

Tad Decker, Chairman
Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board
P.O. Box 69060
Harrisburg, PA 17106-9060

Dear Chairman Decker:

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with my comments regarding the application filed by the Isle of Capri. I would like to have my thoughts included as part of the evidentiary record related to the Category 2 slots license for Allegheny County. Unfortunately, scheduling conflicts on April 18th and 19th prohibited me from attending the local hearings held by the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board in Pittsburgh.

In my view there is one candidate that stands out above the other two applicants. The Isle of Capri and their voluntary commitment to fund the construction of a new multi-purpose arena, combined with their documented plan to redevelop the Hill District, is an opportunity of a lifetime to the citizens of the city, region and state. Their commitment and documented plans are unmatched by the other applicants.

I must admit, I do not envy you for the tough choices you are going to have to make as this process goes forward. But, in my eyes I truly believe if one takes into consideration the plans of all three applicants and considers them on their merits alone you will see that the Isle of Capri proposal stands out for three reasons.

First, as part of their gaming application the Isle of Capri included their commitment to fully fund the construction of a new multi-use arena which will be given to the county. Secondly, the Isle of Capri and their partners in the Pittsburgh First coalition have pledged their commitment to revitalize the Hill District after it has been neglected for half a century. Thirdly, the location for which the Isle of Capri chose for the location of their proposed casino is an area that can handle the additional traffic a casino and revitalized neighborhood will bring.

The Isle of Capri's commitment to fund the construction of a multi-purpose arena will allow our city the opportunity to continue as the permanent home to the Pittsburgh Penguins, and to host world class shows and concerts. As tourism in the city continues to grow from a result of the renovated convention center a new arena will only further this process creating new opportunities for the city to host events that will not currently come to the aging Mellon Arena. The pledge from the Isle of Capri will not require public dollars for a new multi-use arena, allowing these precious tax dollars to be used elsewhere across the county on projects of dire need.

The location chosen by the Isle of Capri already sits along major bus and commuter routes easing the access for many of the patrons wishing to visit this destination. The existing roads and public transportation can readily handle the increased usage that the casino and redevelopment will add.

In conclusion, I feel that the Isle of Capri has presented a plan that cannot be passed up. Their commitment to redevelop a once prominent neighborhood by reconnecting the Hill District to downtown in addition to providing a privately funded state-of-the-art arena and world class gaming casino is exactly what our city needs as we try and emerge from financial hardship.

I want to thank you for allowing me to provide you with my comments. I hope that the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board will take them under consideration when determining the award of the Pittsburgh gaming license.

Sincerely,



Joseph F. Markosek
State Representative
25th Legislative District

JFM/if



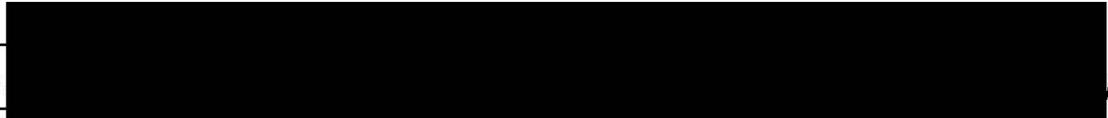
Pennsylvania
Gaming Control Board

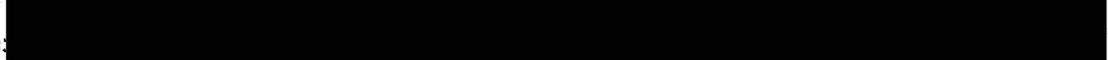


WRITTEN COMMENT TO BE INCLUDED IN THE
EVIDENTIARY RECORD OF THE PUBLIC INPUT HEARINGS

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: JOSEPH T. MARKOSEK

Address: 

Telephone: 

Organization, if any: _____

Employer: PA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

Comments: Page 2 (continued)

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

Joe Markosiek



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: MARC GERGELY

Address:

Telephone:

Organization, if any:

Employer: House of Representatives

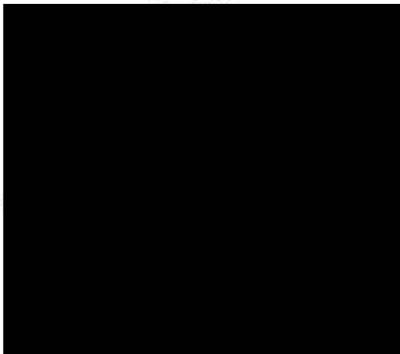
COMMENTS: (Please use second page if more space is required)

Comments: Page 2 (continued)

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marc Gergely", is written over a horizontal line.

MARC J. GERGELY, MEMBER
35TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEES



FINANCE
GAME & FISHERIES
DEMOCRATIC SECRETARY
LABOR RELATIONS
DEMOCRATIC POLICY
PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE

ALLEGHENY COUNTY
DEMOCRATIC DELEGATION
SECRETARY/TREASURER

WEB SITE:
www.pahouse.com/GERGELY

House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

15% COTTON, 100% RECYCLED

June 1, 2006

Tad Decker, Chairman
Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board
P.O. Box 69060
Harrisburg, PA 17106-9060

Dear Chairman Decker:

My purpose in writing to you today is to have my thoughts included as part of the evidentiary record related to the Category 2 slots license for Allegheny County. Scheduling conflicts prohibited me from attending the local hearings in Pittsburgh, but I would like to take this time to submit written comments in support of the application filed by the Isle of Capri.

My name is Representative Marc Gergely and I am a resident of Allegheny County. I currently represent the 35th Legislative District in the Pennsylvania State House of Representatives. I write to you to express my unequivocal support for the proposal presented by the Isle of Capri. This is the plan that is the best for city, county and region as a whole.

As you know three applicants have applied for the Category 2 casino license for the City of Pittsburgh. Of the three applicants, one stands out above the others. The Isle of Capri and their voluntary commitment to the citizens of the city, region and state is unmatched by the other applicants. The Isle of Capri plan stands out for three basic reasons their commitment to fully fund the construction of a new multi-use arena which will be given to the county, their commitment to the revitalization of an arena neglected for a half century and their choice to locate their casino in an area that is not already an overcrowded traffic nightmare.

The Pittsburgh First coalition formed by Isle of Capri, Pittsburgh Penguins, Nationwide Realty Investors, and the community has presented a plan that would revitalize an area that has been neglected for far too long. The Hill District has not been the beneficiary of redevelopment assistance dollars that have been afforded to other sections of the city and region – and there is no reason to think that after years of being passed over any money will be allocated to this section of the city anytime soon. What the Pittsburgh First coalition is willing to do is unprecedented without local, county or state aid, this area can again become a vibrant community creating job for those who need them the most and tax revenues for a city trying to emerge from its own financial distress. If you need further proof of what can be done in area the size of the 28 acres currently home to the Mellon Arena, I point you to what Nationwide Realty did when they redeveloped the Arena District in Columbus, Ohio. One trip to the Arena District in Columbus will make you realize why we need this redevelopment in Pittsburgh.

Additionally, the Isle of Capri's commitment to privately fund \$290 million dollars for the construction of multi-use arena will allow our city the opportunity to continue as the permanent home to the Pittsburgh Penguins, and to host world class traveling shows and concerts, and will create new opportunities for the city to host events that will not currently come to the aging Mellon Arena. Furthermore, the pledge from the Isle of Capri will not require redevelopment assistance dollars for a new multi-use arena. Rather, these dollars will be available to be spent elsewhere across the county on projects of dire need. This county and region has already pledged too many tax dollars to the development of the sports stadiums on the North Shore. We can not afford to pledge any further dollars.

The location chosen by the Isle of Capri is easily accessible for all parts of the city by the interstate connector I-576. This location already sits along major bus and commuter routes easing the access for many of the patrons wishing to visit this destination. During the Penguins hockey season this area already successfully accommodates 17,000 people who all come and go in an hour span. The existing roads and public transportation can readily handle the increased usage that the casino and redevelopment will add.

In conclusion, I feel that the Isle of Capri has presented a plan for the city that is a once in a lifetime chance to redevelop a once prominent neighborhood by reconnecting the Hill District to downtown in addition to providing the city, county and region with a privately funded state of the art arena and casino. It is my hope that the Board considers all aspects of the each applicant's comprehensive plan and how their plan as a whole affects all the residents of our region.

Respectfully yours,



Representative Marc Gergely
State Representative
35th House District



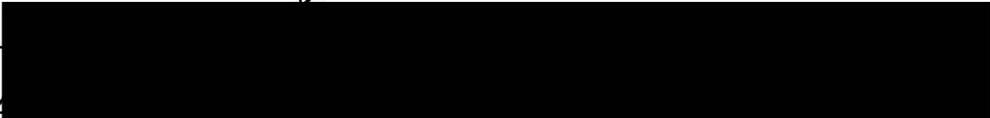
**Pennsylvania
Gaming Control Board**



**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: Sean M. Ramaley

Address: 

Telephone:  get

Organization, if any: _____

Employer: Pennsylvania state House of Representatives

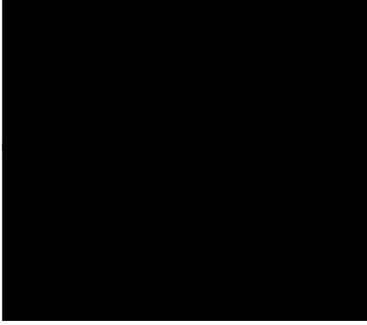
COMMENTS: (Please use second page if more space is required)

Comments: Page 2 (continued)

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

Sean M. Ramaley

SEAN M. RAMALEY, MEMBER



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

May 12, 2006

COMMITTEES:

LABOR RELATIONS
LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON BOROUGH
PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE
STATE GOVERNMENT,
MINORITY SECRETARY
DEMOCRATIC POLICY

SOUTHWEST DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS
ALLEGHENY COUNTY
DEMOCRATIC DELEGATION

FIREFIGHTER AND EMERGENCY
SERVICES CAUCUS

Tad Decker, Chairman
Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board
P.O. Box 69060
Harrisburg, PA 17106-9060

Dear Chairman Decker:

I am writing today to express my support for the proposal I feel best benefits my constituents and the entire Pittsburgh region. That proposal is the one proposed by the Isle of Capri. I respectfully request that the comments contained in this letter be included as part of the evidentiary record related to the Category 2 slots license for the City of Pittsburgh.

I appreciate all three applicants' interest in coming to the City of Pittsburgh. Based upon the information made available by the three applicants, I believe that the plan presented by the Isle of Capri stands out as the best for our region.

The Isle of Capri is the only applicant that has been committed from the very beginning to giving the city what it has long needed, as we further develop our convention center and downtown districts. The Isle of Capri has volunteered to fully fund the construction of new multi-purpose arena and revitalize a neighborhood that has been struggling for nearly a half century. A new state-of-the-art arena will add to the attraction of our convention center district and allow the city to draw national conventions, shows, acts and events that the limited and aging Mellon Arena currently cannot attract. Furthermore, the Isle of Capri's commitment to redeveloping the Hill District and reconnecting this neighborhood to the city's downtown is extremely important to the economic viability of the city, as it tries to emerge from bankruptcy.

Additionally, this is the only plan that proposes a new arena, world class casino and redeveloped neighborhood in a single location. I believe the synergy for the new arena and casino side-by-side will enable the casino to maximize its gaming revenues, and thus, the gaming tax paid to the state.

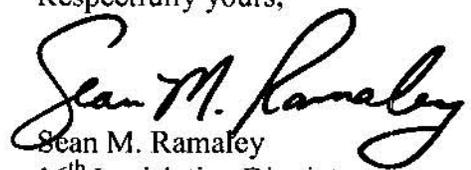
With the commitment from the Isle of Capri, public tax dollars, whether from the gaming tax or elsewhere, will not be used to fund the construction of a new arena. The hardworking taxpayers of our region will know that projects of critical importance for the region's growth will not be sacrificed.

Moreover, I know from first-hand experience that the location chosen by the Isle of Capri is the best from a traffic and transportation standpoint. The existing transportation network in and around the Isle of Capri's chosen location can handle the increased traffic from visitors to the new a casino.

When considering the economic impact, revitalization of a neighborhood, reconnecting sections of the city, reestablishing Pittsburgh's ability to be a destination for major conventions and attractions, and the ability to handle the increased flow of traffic, I reiterate my support for the Isle of Capri proposal as the best all-around slots proposal for Pittsburgh, and respectfully request that Board consider these comments.

Thank you for your time on this matter of importance to the City of Pittsburgh and surrounding region.

Respectfully yours,



Sean M. Ramaley
16th Legislative District
Pennsylvania House of Representatives



**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: Rep. Nick Kotik

Address:

Telephone:

Organization, if any: _____

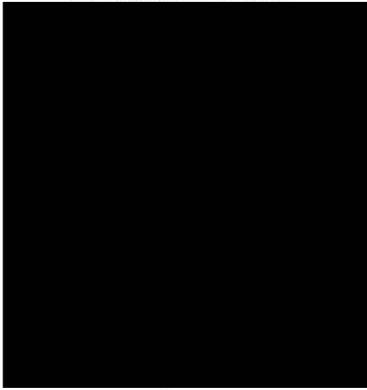
Employer: State House of Representatives

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

Comments: Page 2 (continued)

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

□ NICK KOTIK, MEMBER
45TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT



□

□



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
DEMOCRATIC SECRETARY
URBAN AFFAIRS
POLICY
PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE
AGRICULTURE & RURAL AFFAIRS

CAUCUSES

PA FIREFIGHTERS & EMERGENCY
SERVICES CAUCUS
SPORTSMEN'S CAUCUS
PRO-LIFE CAUCUS
ITALIAN CAUCUS
ALZHEIMER'S CAUCUS

May 18, 2006

Tad Decker, Chairman
Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board
P.O. Box 69060
Harrisburg, PA 17106-9060

Dear Chairman Decker:

As a State Representative who calls western Pennsylvania home, I am submitting to you today this letter to express my opinion on the awarding of the slots license to the City of Pittsburgh. The comments that I am submitting to you are in support of the application filed by the Isle of Capri. I would respectfully ask that they are included as part of the evidentiary record as the Board decides on the recipient of the gaming license for the City of Pittsburgh.

The decision I made to support the Isle of Capri was a decision I made carefully by having reviewed the details related to the Isle of Capri's project as well as the other applicant's proposals.

For sometime now the residents of this region heard from the Pittsburgh Penguins that two things were essential for the team to reverse its course as a franchise that was losing money yearly and to ensure it remained in Pittsburgh. The Penguins needed a new collective bargaining agreement with the League's players' union and a new arena to replace their home which is the oldest and smallest of any team in the National Hockey League. The League and players have done their part when they agreed on a new collective bargaining agreement last year. The Isle of Capri has now offered to fund the construction of a new multi-purpose arena. For years the Penguins were told that public money was not available for the construction of a new arena. I know from serving as an elected official, the decision to use public dollars to fund the construction of stadiums or arenas is unpopular with many. The opportunity available to us now, a public dollar free arena, is a chance of a lifetime.

In addition to privately funding the construction of a new multi-purpose arena, the Isle of Capri has presented a plan that would revitalize an area that has been neglected for far too long. Unlike other sections of the city, the Hill District has not been the beneficiary of redevelopment assistance dollars. There is no reason to think that after years of being passed over, when redevelopment assistance dollars are distributed, that any money will be allocated to this section of the city anytime soon. What the Pittsburgh First coalition is willing to do is unprecedented. Without local, county or state aid, the Hill District, under this plan, will again become a vibrant

community creating jobs for those who need them the most and tax revenues for a city trying to emerge from its own financial distress.

The location chosen by the Isle of Capri, in my opinion, exceeds that of the other proposed locations. As a lifelong resident of Allegheny County, I understand the traffic issues that currently exist with the proposed locations for the other sites. This location already sits along major bus and commuter routes easing the access for many of the patrons wishing to visit this destination. The existing roads and public transportation can readily handle the increased usage that the casino and redevelopment will add.

In conclusion, I feel that the Isle of Capri has presented a plan for the city that is a fantastic opportunity for the city, region and state. A chance to redevelop a once prosperous neighborhood and a privately funded state-of-the-art arena and casino is an opportunity that should not be overlooked.

I want to thank you for allowing me to provide you with my comments. I hope that the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board will take them into consideration when determining the award of the Pittsburgh gaming license.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nick Kotik". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Nick" being more prominent than the last name "Kotik".

Nick Kotik
Pennsylvania House of Representatives
45th Legislative District



**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: Paul Costa

Address:

Telephone:

Organization, if any:

Employer: Pennsylvania House of Representatives

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

Comments: Page 2 (continued)

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

Paul Costa

PAUL COSTA, MEMBER
34TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES:

LIQUOR CONTROL
TOURISM & RECREATION, SECRETARY
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
POLICY
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE FOR RESEARCH AND

CAUCUSES

FIREFIGHTERS AND
EMERGENCY SERVICES
COAL
STEEL
SPORTSMEN'S
LOCAL TAX REFORM

May 12, 2006

Tad Decker, Chairman
Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board
P.O. Box 69060
Harrisburg, PA 17106-9060

Dear Chairman Decker,

I am writing to you today to express my thoughts related to the slots license which is being considered for the City of Pittsburgh. I would like to take this time to submit written comments in support of the application filed by the Isle of Capri and have them included as part of the evidentiary record. I would have preferred to have addressed you in person in April, however scheduling conflicts prohibited me from attending the local input hearings.

My name is Paul Costa and I currently represent the 34th Legislative District in the Pennsylvania State House of Representatives. I choose to support the Isle of Capri's plan from the first moment I learned of it in January of this year. Since then I have been able to get more details related to this project as well as the other applicant's proposals. I have neither heard nor seen anything to make me believe anything other than that the Isle of Capri proposal is the best for city, county and region.

I commend the Isle of Capri for their voluntary commitment to the citizens of the City of Pittsburgh. For years, the residents of this region heard that the city needed a new arena and an updated convention center to encourage increased tourism and revenues. We have already expanded and renovated the aging convention center now we must replace the outdated Mellon Arena. A world-class casino and a new state-of-the-art arena combined with the already

renovated convention center, will allow the region to attract new and larger conventions, all of which will bring more visitors and revenues to our financially strapped city. **The combination of these facilities in the downtown should do for Pittsburgh what the Pennsylvania Convention Center did for Philadelphia – be the catalyst for new restaurants, retail shops, hotel rooms and businesses and for the return of residents to downtown Pittsburgh.**

For years the Penguins were told that public money was not available for the construction of a new arena. I know from serving as an elected official, the decision to use public dollars as part of the financing package for the new stadiums on the North Shore was unpopular with many. The Isle of Capri's commitment to privately fund \$290 million dollars for the construction of a multi-use arena is a once in a lifetime opportunity to continue our city's downtown revitalization. The opportunity the Isle of Capri is offering is a true gift to the city.

The pledge from the Isle of Capri will not require redevelopment assistance dollars for a new multi-purpose arena. Instead, these dollars will be available to be allocated to other worthy projects across the county.

Further, the location chosen by the Isle of Capri, in my opinion far exceeds the others. As a long time Pittsburgher and legislator of the region, I understand the traffic issues that currently exist with the proposed locations for the other sites. The Isle of Capri's proposed location has sufficient excess capacity to handle the increased needs of the casino and redevelopment, which I believe the others do not. The location is also easily accessible from all directions by the region's present highway system.

Included in the Isle of Capri's proposal is the plan to revitalize an area that has been neglected for over 50 years. The Isle of Capri and their coalition members are willing to completely revitalize this once prominent area and neighborhood and reconnect it to downtown. The importance of this aspect of their plan can not be underestimated.

In conclusion, I feel that the Isle of Capri has presented a plan for the city that is an incredible opportunity, for the city, region and state. A chance to redevelop a once prosperous neighborhood and a privately funded state of the art arena and casino is an opportunity that should not be overlooked.

I want to thank you for allowing me to provide you with my comments. I hope that the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board will take them under consideration when determining the award of the Pittsburgh gaming license.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Costa". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "P".

Paul Costa
34th House District
Pennsylvania House of Representatives