

Dear PGCB, our family is very opposed to a casino in this location. It is disrespectful and too close in proximity to the Gettysburg National Military Park. What does this say about us as a people where so many men died and were wounded. Gettysburg more than any national park is known for the turning point of our country and the Civil War itself. Gettysburg is also know around the world. Putting a casino in this location will only cheapen the meaning of this sacred place. It is also a family destination. A casino will also change this, and also hurt the local`s economy . Please consider the other locations, but not Gettysburg. Your decision will decide how everyone looks at our state and nation. We can never get back anything once it is lost.

Gettysburg is a Sacred place. A casino would cheapen it. Please no casino at Gettysburg. As a historic traveler, I can tell you that when I visit these sacred places, I go for the history and I would not visit a casino. I live six hours from the Vicksburg Battlefield in Mississippi, and I have not once on any of my visits went to their casinos. If I want to gamble, I would take a trip to Vegas.

I am not a local person. So you may take me as very insignificant and unimportant in the narrow picture. I am an American citizen, just one of the many who know we are told by our constitution that we are sovereign and in whom reside all unwritten rights not outlined by the constitution specifically applying to the States or the Federal Government. I love Gettysburg and the atmosphere of the region. Lincoln came there once upon a time to consecrate the ground nearby. A casino in that region is a desecration to what is still very special and sacred about the area to millions of Americans who have not heard of this development. I can speak from my experience from traveling America that the casino idea is a desperate ditch-attempt to bring finances to a region. But have you been to see the towns where they have sprung up? It is a death knell to the regions in which they spring up. And it is always a blight to the historical and architectural value of the towns. Cripple Creek Colorado is a good example. Look at the beautiful old town at Google images: you will see the word `casino` emblazoned everywhere. People like me avoid these establishments. I have to take photographs and photoshop out all the ugly signs to make one of my paintings, although I often do not as that is a sad comment I prefer to leave in about how mercenary America has become. I would rather suffer a depression, coming back out of it without the loss of what makes America valuable, interesting, beloved, and special.

I have a theme called `Gone to Look for America.` My works can be seen at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/portraitbee/> I have been to Gettysburg. I have made paintings of several of its features and intend more. Read the comments by my fans. There are too many not testifying here today who feel like this. Many of us are not yet born. Say no to this casino; do something that continues the consecration of this great area, instead.

When I take my grandchildren to see Gettysburg, I want them to come away with the sense of awe and gratitude that I do now. How can that happen with the increased traffic, and lights, from a casino? There has got to be another location for this--our hallowed battlefields are just that, HALLOWED! As you can see from my address, this issue is far-reaching, and not just a local one. Please use your hearts when you vote on this issue, and not your wallets.

Sincerely,

S. Whitney

Proud member of CWPT

This is a far-reaching issue, and not just local: when I take my grandchildren to Gettysburg`s hallowed grounds, I want them to feel the spirit of the battles, not see and hear the noise of traffic and lights of a casino. Would you build a casino near Arlington? No resort is worth the desecration of the memory of the brave souls who spilled blood at the many battles of Gettysburg.

Sincerely,

S. Whitney

Proud member of CWPT

Name: **Sherryl Whitney**

State: **IA**

County: **Fayette**

ID: **431**

RegID: **573**

Please realize that desecrating Gettysburg with a casino/resort nearby would be a terrible idea! When I bring my grandchildren to the area, I want them to come away with the somber awe I feel when I tread there, not memories of the noise and lights of a resort/casino. Surely, there is a better place for you to develop--leave the Gettysburg area hallowed.

A Casino should not be placed so close to the Gettysburg Battlefield. Those who fought and died on the soil need to be honored. The Proposed casino is 1/2 mile from the Battlefield, but is also very close to west calvary field , where many a good man, Union and Confederate sacrificed for a cause they believe in. I also believe that billboard advertisements will be placed in close proximity to the battlefield which again will take away from the historical aspect of the battlefield. This town is family friendly and families come out to show their future generation (their kids) the history surrounding this battle.

I, and many other friends of mine who are history lovers and have families will not visit again, due to the fact that the town will change for the worst ie more traffic, higher crime, and the deterioration of remembering and honoring those who fought and died here. I know cause my great great Uncle James Coyle died at the angle with the 69th PA on July 3 1863 and is buried in the National Cemetery. Please honor them, those that died, or suffered injury during the battle.. PLEASE.. no casino here in the town of Gettysburg!.. NOT EVER

Name: **todd feirrell** State: **pa** County: **york** ID: **434** RegID: **576**

Dear sir or man to place a casino in such an area of importance to the history of the commonwealth of pennsylvania would soil all hard work blood sweat and tears put forth into making the keystone state one of the greatest places in this great union, I urge you to vote no and as a side note I urge you to vote to accept my terrible grammar and spelling (joke) with best wishes todd feirrell iraqi freedom veteran proud commonwealth resident

Name: **Vicki M. Jenkins-Long** State: **MD** County: **Frederick** ID: **436** RegID: **578**

I will travel to Gettysburg, along with thousands of others each year, for the history. I will AVOID Gettysburg, and take my dollars with me, if the area is turned into another Atlantic City just to bring in dollars. Mine won't be there

Once again we come to ask that the PGCB not allow a casino to be placed near the Gettysburg battlefield. The place that we, the nation, hold dear to our hearts. Our nation`s history played out on these grounds.

It`s simple:

* As you have heard over and over again, this land is hallowed ground...representing all of the soldiers that lost their lives there, and we have got to continue to protect it.

* The community does not want it there. There will be too much damage that will go along with it and they recognize it. They are not stupid.

* The proposed site for the casino is only 1/2 mile away from the military park grounds. (I have been there and I know exactly where it is. I`m not taking someone else`s word.) We have so few places left that we can show future generations. This place is `special`. It`s here in our state in one of our local communities, not out in California or in Florida, but here.

* A casino will bring a multitude of negative issues to this area. Gettysburg is a small community, dedicated to the military park, national cemetery, the town, the Eisenhower Farm, the thousands of reenactors that participate in the historic activities, and visitors from all over the world.

* Why does a casino have to be built in Gettysburg? A few years ago, the community said no. Why are we having to do this again?

I respectfully ask that you say no to a license for this proposed casino.

Sandra K Woodward
Mechanicsburg, PA

I believe in common sense - there is no place for the casino in Gettysburg.

It was a very cynical idea to put gambling facility on the sacred ground .

Thank you for rejecting it once.

Please, reject this proposal again for the sake of common sense.

Very respectfully,

Galina, mother of two Eagle Scouts.

Good Morning, My name is Ann Harner, I have lived in Gettysburg all my life and have been proud to tell people that. However if a Casino would come here, I think that would take the true meaning away...I am not against gambling. Feel everyone should be able to spend their money how they choose but please, please please not here in Gettysburg. When I was in school, and this will date me, I had Col Sheads for a teacher.. He would take his classes out on the battlefield and teach us...He said that we should always be proud to be a part of this town and surrounding country side. That people all over the world would know our town because of what happened here Jul 1,2,3 and 4 1963. How would someone try and take that away.. This battlefield is special. Please do not let one persons greed, take that away from us....Thank you for fighting for us the first time and I PRAY you consider to give the license to one of the other places.....Thank YOU

Respectfully,

Ann E. Harner

hello,

A casino at the sacred Gettysburg would be a great dishonor to the men who fought and died there.

Look around every Casino and you will find the property looks like a battle ground.

Where the enemy is found lurking in corners pedaling drugs, prostitution with all the destructiveness of another war.

The only winner`s when it comes to Casino`s are the owners.

Job`s, are they full time or are they seasonal, part-time where no benefits are given?

This is not an issue of economic growth, rather the way in which we honor those men who gave there lives! Who sacrificed there lives for a noble cause. Not for a Casino to be built on the very grounds the spilled there very last drop of blood.

Will there be a tombstone that reads, `Here lies the Town of Gettysburg in all it`s magnificent Glory`.

Name: **mary g. oylar** State: **pa** County: **adams** ID: **458** RegID: **596**

This is not a proper place for a gambling casino. This is an historic place to visit and remember what happened here Please do not permit this casino to be built here. Thank you!

As you can see by my address I now live in Montana but most of my relatives continue to live in Adams County and we are all concerned about a gambling resort near a place of historical significance. To historians, and to most Americans, Gettysburg is of extreme importance and to put in any sort of resort is destroying the preservation of that area. The National Park Service has worked for many years to restore the area to what it was during the 1860`s. The proposed building site is only 1/2 mile from known battlefield ground. I think resort owners should consider a location completely removed from Gettysburg so that there is no risk of destroying the history of the area. Anyone interested in gambling will find you no matter where you build. Please reconsider your location; to build in and around Gettysburg is a slap in the face to those soldiers who died fighting to preserve our Nation.

Historic sites such as Gettysburg Battlefield are vital and essential to teaching about and sustaining sound values and principles in a firsthand way. Gettysburg Battlefield is especially unique in how history comes alive to all those who visit there. Nothing can take the place of this, whether it be textbooks, movies, paintings, music, classroom teachings or what have you. To have a gambling casino in such close proximity to this very historic battlefield would greatly and most negatively alter the meaning and spirit it currently exudes. In its current state, well-distanced from anything that runs counter to its meaning, it is one of most valuable historic sites in the U.S. today. There`s no question that if a gambling casino were placed in close proximity to it, this value it now holds would be lost forever, with the casino not in a million years ever being able to make up for it.

Name: **blake underwood**

State: **ga**

County: **gwinnett**

ID: **466**

RegID: **609**

allowing a casino this close to civil war grounds for tax revenue would be an injustice to our country`s history. we dont need a casino to draw citizens away from the natural, beautiful history the battlefield withholds. please stop this! have integrity for the community. you dont want to be cherokee, NC

Sirs,

I strongly urge you to reject the application to build a casino near the Gettysburg battlefield.

I served as a US Marine for over thirty years. Battlefields have a special meaning for those who have defended our country. I have participated in the funerals of a great many fellow Marines and to me the soil is sacred upon which men fought and are buried.

Gettysburg is the unique battlefield of the Civil War, the events there shaped our national destiny. Preserving the solemnity and pristine appearance of the region does honor to those who `gave the last full measure of devotion` there and also serves to remind future generations of the cost of holding deeply held beliefs.

I can sympathize with the desire to create jobs and add revenue to the county coffers but please look to the much longer view. Your county is one of great beauty as well as historical importance and to succumb to the temptation to add revenue at the cost of dignity must, to future generations, be a tradeoff poorly made.

With respects,

Thomas Campbell
Master Gunnery Sergeant
United States Marine Corps, Retired

I am opposed to the location of the casino in the area which is being considered. I am not opposed to casinos but surely there is somewhere else. Gettysburg is the largest battle ever fought in the western hemisphere. My great great grandfather`s brother fought at Gettysburg on July 1, 1863. His unit the 19th Indiana was decimated and he later was KIA on May 9, 1864. He would roll over in his grave if he knew about this as would ten of thousands of others. This is like considering a casino one half mile from the Concord Bridge or Valley Forge or Mt. Vernon. Please, please, please for the cause of common decency and our nation`s heritage vote this down.

Name: **Tony Alexander** State: **in** County: **Miami** ID: **470** RegID: **613**

Find someplace else for the casino. You do not need to capitalize on hallowed ground.

I oppose any effort that would deface, diminish or trivialize the enormity of the events that occurred on July 1, 2, and 3 1863. Gambling is an affront to this sacred treasure.

-Gary L. Shaw

Indianapolis

to be submitted at hearing August 31

I am opposed to this proposal not only because it is so inappropriate for this location but also because of the severe traffic and congestion that already exists in this area during peak months.

There are adequate places to gamble now and they will become white elephants in the not-to-distant future. What type of seedy business will follow the no longer viable gambling parlor?

Please, think through the long-term implications of this decision. Gettysburg has been a magnet for tourists for many, many years. Great strides have been made to remove the more inappropriat tourist traps. Gettysburg is becoming a destination that reflects the sacrifices of the soldiers please don` t impose try to mix that atmosphere with a gambling venue!

Thanks

I do not understand how any individual or corporation/s can even think of constructing a casino or gambling establishment on a field where our ancestors died. This shows no respect to them or us, and only goes to show that money talks. You can ruin the face of America just to put more money in your pockets. I can imagine the day when our country will be nothing but gambling casinos and Walmart stores just to fill someone`s pocket. The only place we will be able to go to relax is a parking lot and say `that use to be.`

We urge you to disapprove the license for this casino. Casinos have their place but not next door to a national shrine. We've been to Gettysburg several times and it is a wonderful monument and historical site and a wonderful area to visit. We urge you not to let it be spoiled by this casino.

Jim and Fran Hazle
Eagle Point, Oregon

Although I can not be there in person, I am strongly opposed to locating a casino in the Gettysburg area. The areas around other casinos have not experienced growth or a `boom` from the additional people drawn to gambling. Look at Bethlehem, Chester. There is no residual benefit to the community for the additional traffic. The gamblers gamble, then they leave.

I will not go to Gettysburg to gamble. I will go to Gettysburg to experience the tragedy, suffering, and impact of what was the turning point and should have been the closing blow of the War Between the States. This is hallowed ground. Do not allow it to be defiled by a casino anywhere near the vicinity. Is this a message we want to send to a youth that already doesn't learn our history in the classroom - that our history doesn't matter? Preserve the legacy of those who died during that hot, oppressive multi-day battle. Respect them. They deserve it. They gave their lives to earn it. Mason-Dixon Resorts should be ashamed of what they are planning. Go to the other side of the line.

I oppose commercial development within 10 miles of Gettysburg. Gettysburg is a national shrine, a treasure, which brings in a million tourists to Pennsylvania every year. A gambling casino in the vicinity of this place is a pathetic idea, only local politicians influenced by greed could support it.

No gaming in Gettysburg!! How would like a casino built next to were your family or relatives gave their lives in the service of country. Greed has no end. I see it everyday. Do you know what ethics means ? I double it. This whole question about building a casino in Gettysburg would be mote.

I would like to express my sincere opposition to the Casino being proposed near Gettysburg, PA. In placing a casino there, not only will it serve to degrade the Hallowed grounds of Gettysburg, but it would alienate MANY Millions of visitors -- who come to Gettysburg for the History of what happened there. In placing the casino there, you will actually alienate possible consumers of its services and create Negative publicity on a truly Massive scale -- which would actually hurt any possible business or economic gains. I truly hope, as a tax paying consumer and resident of Pennsylvania, that you would please re-consider and NOT place the Casino near Gettysburg. For everyones sake. Thank you for taking the time to listen and reason things out. Sincerely, John

While I don't oppose casino's in general, it is all to clear to me that on the edge of Gettysburg Battlefield is the last place one should be located.

Not only does it cheapen the sacrifice that those men made for our country, it will adversely impact the surrounding area. Casino's are notorious for increasing the cost of public safety in the areas in which they are built. It does a disservice to the community which bases so much on tourism, which has worked so hard to return the battlefield to its original sacred condition. To Build a casino on this hallowed ground would be a travesty!

I would like to ask the members of the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board to PLEASE not grant this gaming permit to Mason-Dixon Resorts. The National Park at Gettysburg as well as the town of Gettysburg will suffer. Money will be sucked away from this great historic place in this country`s history to line the pockets of people who have no regard for history in the first place and secondly, are greedy anyway.

Gettysburg is hallowed ground. There is no way to wiggle by this fact. I cannot believe anyone would want to disregard this piece of land where so many died for their respective causes. This land should never be encroached upon in any fashion and the very idea of a gambling casino this close to this National Military Park is like opening a whorehouse in the Capitol Building of the State of Pennsylvania. Would you do that? Think about it. Vote no to this and all future efforts to build casinos anywhere near Gettysburg.

Thank you for your time.

Guice Howell

ps. I`ve been to Gettysburg four times. It`s a magnificent Park.

I have visited Adams County, The Gettysburg National Military Park and the town of Gettysburg many times over the years. This location has a unique place in American History and the memories of all of us who have either lost loved ones in the Battle , the Civil War or are students or admirers of the war and this important period of our history. I think it is an utter travesty to grant a license to a group of speculators whose only interest is to take advantage of this location to make money without any concern for the effect this will have on the nearby park and National Cemeteries.

As a resident of Gettysburg I feel that Mason-Dixon Resorts should not be granted a license for a casino in the Gettysburg area.. Gettysburg is know for the great battle that had a bearing on our nation`s future. To have a casino located so close to the battlefield and to be using a Gettysburg address as a draw would be sending a message to the citizens of this great country that the PGCB does not care about the history of the area. Apparently the promoters of the Mason -Dixon Resort have no regard for the history. My hope, and many others like me, is that the PGCB will again reject any possible attempts to open a casino in such a special historical place.

Regards,
Dan Kessel

The area in question is not as suitable for a casino as other sites are. If a casino is allowed to operate near the National Battlefield of Gettysburg, it could have a negative influence upon the area and specifically could adversely affect the battlefield area with congestion and tourists who are not interested in maintaining the decorum of this hallowed field. The Gettysburg area should not be considered a resort, as such and the support facilities needed to maintain a casino would create traffic tie-ups and impinge upon pedestrians who use local roads to view the battlefield.

Gettysburg National Battlefield preserves what is perhaps the single most decisive event in the great conflict which determined whether the `last great hope of mankind` in Lincoln`s words would survive or disintegrate. Over 50,000 men were killed , wounded or captured in three days of bitter fighting. In the end, the Confederate forces were driven from the field and the high water mark of the Confederacy had come and gone.

To despoil this area with casino gambling and all that that milieu implies is a sacrilege which seeks to capitalize on the attraction provided by the battlefield to exploit it for a quick buck under the cover of `jobs and economic development.`

In my view the long run economic impact of casino gambling in the Gettysburg area will be negative. Whatever jobs are created by the casino operations will be more than offset by a decline in tourism and economic activity related to the Park itself. Families like mine that have visited Gettysburg many times in the past will not return to a desecrated venue where bars, cheap motels , prostitution and all the other elements that inevitably accompany gambling have destroyed the character of the experience. If this proposal is approved, I will have paid my last visit to Gettysburg and to Pennsylvania.

How can this cynical exploitation of such a momentous event even be given serious consideration?

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How can this cynical exploitation of such a momentous event even be given serious consideration?

Name: **Maxim Kalinkin**

State: **PA**

County: **Adams**

ID: **501**

RegID: **647**

` Do not gamble with our future `

There is no place for the casino in Gettysburg.

Gambling in casinos is an expensive form of entertainment that saps money from people who can put those dollars to better use. Lottery tickets are cheaper and more in line with the budgets of the lower class. Buying better cars, clothes, furniture, or housing would all be better uses. Saving for emergencies and large purchases would be even better, but the people who gamble are not patient savers so without casinos, they would generally spend that money somewhere else. It would mean that people push themselves living paycheck to paycheck. To further their gambling habit, some may steal or deal drugs, most most do not. They are more likely to pay less rent and move, opt out of health insurance, AFLAC, and 401K`s, get payday loans, pawn items, and rely on free health care that is welfare, charitable, or written off. After several years, some people have got jobs out of it, while others have lost jobs where the money would have been spent instead and the gamblers don`t have a thing to show for all their spending. Not even a small retirement fund. This is not good for society. It should be limited as much as possible and surely should not be promoted at the expense of natural and historic preservation. Development on the edge of a natural or historic preservation would adversely affect the preserved area. An example would be to build a casino right next door to a national forest. The good of the preserved area, the animals, would retreat from the adjacent area that has all the traffic. So the ruboff effect will have a naturally bad influence on the good area rather than have the good area influence the bad.

I live within 20 minutes of this proposed site and with in 40 minutes of Hollywood Casino in Harrisburg, don` t find it much different. There is already A bussiness at this site that could use a revamp anyway. Would bring more jobs to the area(my wife is looking for) and more money for the couny I live in, not my neighbors. There are plenty of other bussiness closer or even on the Battlefield that I don`t feel should be there, but some how they are.

The Gettysburg Battlefield site is more than the location of a Civil War battle, it is hallowed ground. To defile this ground with a gambling casino a half mile away would be more than wrong, it borders on heresy. The men who died and were wounded there deserve more respect than that. Please let the gamblers and the money men find another place to do their activity.

The Gettysburg Battlefield site is more than just a battle site of the Civil War, it is hallowed ground. To defile it with a casino less than a half mile away is wrong and borders on heresy. The men who died and those who were wounded deserve better. Let the gamblers and money men find another location for their activity.

The Gettysburg Battlefield is more than the site of a Civil War battle. It is hallowed ground. To defile it with a casino is completely wrong and borders on heresy. The men who died and those who were wounded deserve better. Let the gamblers and money men find another location for their activity.

A nation that knows their history is a stronger nation. Gettysburg was a site of a great battle in a great conflict that helped define who we are today. There is much to be learned about the Civil War and about ourselves as a nation at Gettysburg and these lessons are best learned in the quiet fields where you can put yourself back in that conflict and have time to reflect. Increases in the noise from increased traffic and congestion will significantly decrease our opportunity to capture something about our past.

Gettysburg is sacred ground and Adams County has the responsibility to the nation to help maintain the respect for our history. A casino just outside the park will destroy much of character of the park. Is that worth the revenue the casino might bring? Doesn't the honor of maintaining sacred ground outweigh simple greed?

Please honor our history and the sacred ground that is within Adams County and vote NO on the casino license.

Pennsylvania is a huge place with many areas in need of updating; many people in need of jobs. Gettysburg and Adams County is not one of those places.

I join with others to remind people, that history, fortunately or unfortunately, touched the area making it forever a national focal center. A place that has to be maintained as much as possible as is to remind us, to provide a place of reflection, to teach us about what has become representative of a critical time in America.

We seem lately to be rushing lemming like to put gambling everywhere. We are going to pay for that passing fad eventually. Let us not pay for it in Gettysburg/Adams County. Let`s once and for all rule that area out of bounds forever. Meanwhile, say no to Mason Dixon.

Name: **Jim Morgan** State: **KS** County: **Johnson** ID: **514** RegID: **663**

Don` t spoil a national treasure with a casino where Americans fought to decide the outcome of this nation.

Although I make my home in Ohio, my husband & I make the 6 1/2 hour drive to Gettysburg at least twice a year. I consider it to be one of the most beautiful destinations I have ever visited. The countryside is stunning, not only for its natural beauty, but for its historic relevance. Please, please do not cheapen it by adding a casino a half-mile away from the Battlefield Park. The Emmitsburg Road is as historic & relevant as Gettysburg, itself.

We would not be the country we are were it not for the brave men who fought & often died at Gettysburg.

Surely there must be another location in PA that is less historically significant than Gettysburg.

We are frequent visitors to Gettysburg and the battlefield. A casino would largely spoil the attraction of Gettysburg for a family, and it would definitely spoil the hallowed spirit which attracts us to this place.

Let it be known that I do not support the idea of putting a casino near such sacred ground. Nearly every male ancestor on my maternal grandmother`s side, who was able, fought or gave their lives in the Battle at Gettysburg. I find it an abomination to even entertain the notion of building a resort/casino anywhere near this land. The land in and around Gettysburg deserves far more respect. Thousands of our ancestors fought and died on these lands. They gave their lives for what they believed in! Why would anyone think it was `ok` to disregard that? This is OUR history, OUR heritage and THEIR resting place! Gettysburg is sacred, hallowed ground and should be left as such.

Name: **mike landy** State: **nj** County: **hudson** ID: **519** RegID: **671**

Please reconsider any proposal to place a casino so close to Gettysburg National Park. As a history teacher who takes children on field trips to the area and stresses the impact of the events that took place in 1863 I feel a casino would cheaper the experience and lessen the natural impact of the site.

Mike Landy

History Teacher Harrison Public schools

Name: **mike landy** State: **nj** County: **hudson** ID: **520** RegID: **671**

No casino at Gettysburg!!!

Name: **Peter J. Wolf** State: **NM** County: **Santa Fe** ID: **521** RegID: **672**

Please choose another location for you casino not so close to the National Battlefield Park!

I have read said materials. I beleive that a local casino would help to improve our local economy and unemployment drastically. Over the past few years our unemployment rate as `sky rocketed.` People in Adams County need to support their family and are unable to do so with out a job. Our local economy could always use a `boost.` Why allow people to travel to other states when they could stay right here in Adams County, PA. It is time that we join together and want to see Adams Co. grow and be a successful location. Thank you for allowing me to add my `two sense` worth.

Members of the board,

While I am not a resident of Adams County I feel the need to speak out against the building of any casino near Gettysburg. As a resident of Connecticut I know the benefits that casinos appear to bring to a community - jobs, revenue, tourists. I also know what else comes with a casino - traffic, crime, congestion.

While Connecticut may have benefited in some ways from the revenue supplied to it by its two Indian casinos it has also paid a price for relying on that revenue. In these difficult times the revenue is down, jobs have been cut and the programs that have been paid for through this revenue have been hurt immeasurably. Nevertheless the problems that the casinos bring with them still exist. They are still magnets for crime...they are still magnets for people who drag their small children to the casino and leave them unattended in their cars, they are still magnets for those who gamble away the hours while drinking for free and leave drunk. I am astounded that these issues have not been raised in regard to the building of a casino near Gettysburg.

Mind you, our two casinos were built in areas that had little to lose in building them. There was no gem like the GNMP nearby to attract families like there is in Gettysburg. I see what the traffic is like in Connecticut near these casinos and can only cringe when I imagine the same traffic flow streaming through the battlefield. Please consider these issues as you make your decision, but do not allow that to be your only consideration.

Also consider the impact this will have on one of the best preserved Civil War sites in the nation. I live in New England, where many battles were fought to give us the right to govern ourselves. Yet try to find any evidence of these battles. You will be hard pressed to see any sign of the struggle that took place to win our independence because they are nearly all paved under. Do not underestimate the impact that is felt when you can stand on ground made sacred by the sacrifice of thousands of people- U.S. citizens all - an impact that will be greatly affected by the proposed casino.

Two years ago, while at the FBI Academy in Quantico, VA, I brought a group of classmates to Gettysburg to tour the battlefield and surrounding area. One of them commented that this was all a new experience to him - that being the HISTORY that he was surrounded by, and something that he, as a resident of a western state, did not get to experience often at all. Ask yourself - what a casino will do to enhance that experience for anyone? Will the creation of more jobs (and ask yourself who is going to be getting those jobs as well) in the short term be worth the damage done in the long term?

I stayed silent the first time a casino was proposed near Gettysburg because I felt that the residents of the area would come to see that this type of `progress` is anything but that. I speak out now because this type of `progress` is raising its head once more, and I have seen what effect this sort of `progress` has on an area.

Please find against the development by Mason-Dixon Resorts for the good of a true national heritage.

Dale Call
302 Moose Hill Road
Monroe, CT 06468

Name: **charles t. ford** State: **ny** County: **orange** ID: **527** RegID: **678**

Sir or Madam, I am schocked that you would money and profits before history. Gettysburg will be long remembered before a bunch of people who do nothing but gamble their money away. Charlie

My name is Wesley Rodriguez. I am writing from Chatsworth California.

When I heard of plans to build a casino a half-mile from the Gettysburg battlefield, I found myself shocked and outraged. This is a spit in the face to those who fought and struggled for four long years to keep this country together. Thousands of men died and were buried there for the cause, and now a house of gambling is to be established nearby the gravesite of those brave soldiers?

It is my sincere hope that this casino project is cancelled or moved to a site further away from this hallowed ground.

Name: **Eric Taylor** State: **TN** County: **Hamilton** ID: **531** RegID: **682**

Never should we allow greed and avarice to supplant the sacrifice in blood and material made by the forefathers. No, always no to this petition.

Please, do not allow this sacred ground to be used for anything other than to teach what happened here in the past, for the present and the future generations of Americans. I have been a student of the Civil War and there are few places that have the impact Gettysburg has on an individual. Please do not start now or ever to demean what this special special place in American History stands for.

I just got back from visiting Gettysburg last week with my 15 year old grandson. This was his first visit and my fourth. I was thrilled to see his interest in partaking of the history of the area and wanting to learn more about it. When we first arrived he questioned me about the No Casino signs, and I explained what the possibilities were. Even he could see that putting a casino that close to the battlefield was totally outrageous, when there were so many other options open to them.

I can also speak firsthand of what a casino can do to specific areas. Several years ago, we had a casino, the Horseshoe Casino, built about 10 miles from our town, along the Ohio River. I don't oppose casinos and never had an issue with it being built, and occasionally visit it.

However, the county road that is was built along was never meant to handle the kind of traffic that it receives. There is extensive traffic on it 24-7. It's obvious that the local population along the side roads leading to the casino must have a difficult time getting to town.

In addition, ever since the casino has opened, there is typically 1-2 traffic fatalities along the road every year. Prior to the casino there were virtually none.

After visiting Gettysburg, I can see the nightmares that would arise along Steinwehr Ave. by having a casino just south of the battlefields. You're not talking about occasional cars, you're talkind about constant traffic 24-7. **GETTYSBURG CANNOT HANDLE THAT KIND OF TRAFFIC.**

Please realize that this is going to be going right past the fields where Picketts Charge took place. Don't dessicrate the memories of those brave soldiers from BOTH armies that fought here.

Please protect the history of these grounds for us and our future generations. Build it somewhere else.

Thank you for you time.

Please **DO NOT** put gaming so near a sacred area!

There is plenty of space and farmland that you could secure away from such a special and consecrated ground. I would be very upset and never consider supporting any casino that was so close to this historical and especially bloody battleground. All those men died- for what??? So some old woman could hit a jackpot down the road??? It is just to vial to imagine this ever happening. If you push it through- I hope it goes bust!!

Name: **Joyce Weaver**

State: **PA**

County: **Adams**

ID: **549**

RegID: **704**

This is an abomination to the memory of the fallen soldiers of Gettysburg! I completely oppose and will not support this ridiculously self-righteous, greed-driven, money making scheme in MY community! There is only investor that's going to profit from this and it's not the residents of Gettysburg! We Don't want it... KEEP IT OUT!

I live in Rhode Island and visit Gettysburg at least twice a year. The additional safety costs, drop in revenue to other establishments, increase in crime and degeneration of your environment will not be justified for the revenue particularly in this economic atmosphere. We are fighting casino`s in RI because we have seen the effects of Foxwood Casino in CT.

I object to and oppose any casino or gambling venue so close to Gettysburg National Park. When visiting the park, I was incredibly moved knowing our history and how so many Americans died there. It is indeed, sacred ground. I vehemently oppose having a casino nearby...the lights, traffic and development would cast a shadow on hallowed ground. Thank you.

Ask the people of Groton and New London, Ct. what casinos have done to their cities. Crime is way up. A direct result of the casinos!

As a former Airborne Ranger of the US Army, I am angry that PA would consider committing sacrilege on this battlefield where so many Americans died (including my ancestor with the 24th Michigan who is buried on the hill).

Drinks are free at casinos. Are we going to have drunken gamblers recreating Pickett's charge?

There were about 200,000 soldiers at this battle. They even were at the area where these people want to put a casino!

Are you politicians that desperate for money?

Name: **Wendy L. Sykes**

State: **Pa**

County: **Adams**

ID: **561**

RegID: **719**

I fully support Mason Dixon Gaming. I believe whole heartedly that it will bring needed jobs and tax relief to Adams County. Something desperately needed in this economic downturn and with the declining heritage tourism numbers here. Adams County needs to diversify and spread it`s wings and flourish. We already have a tourist base here that makes us the perfect spot for this category three license.

It is entirely unthinkable that a casino would be built near such hallowed ground. It is time that the common good which the founders of this country spoke of be considered again by public officials. There is only one Gettysburg and there are certainly plenty of places to build a casino that would not impinge on the sanctity of this sacred ground. I am not opposed to gambling so this is not a crusade against gambling. But it is offensive beyond belief to think that such an enterprise would even for a minute be considered within such close proximity to the Gettysburg National Battlefield.

Name: **Pinky Stanseski** State: **PA** County: **Lackawanna** ID: **564** RegID: **722**

I am a member of PCAC,& I support Mason Dixon Casino, because of the jobs & additional property tax relief it WILL BRING! :)

Dear Gaming Board,

I support the plan for a casino at the Mason-Dixon Resorts. I am a condo owner at Devonshire Condos, where the casino will be. I have lived here for twenty years and feel this would be a plus for the community. In today's economy added revenues are needed to offset the growing demands for services needed by citizens in our community. Raising taxes seems to be the only way for added income, but those people on fixed incomes and those without jobs face an uncertain future of being able to hold on to their homes. So please grant Mason-Dixon Resorts the license to open their casino. Thank You,

Geraldine L. Tonti

I think it is disgraceful for a gaming site to be anywhere close to the vicinity of this battlefield. It is a VERY obvious attempt to try and lure people who come to see the battlefield to gamble and make a profit. It is a dishonor to the memory of those who have served and DIED in and around the Gettysburg area. Gettysburg is a family environment, fields, monument, campgrounds, restaurants, shops. Do NOT taint that atmosphere with yet another casino. I worked in a casino at one time, and it is anything but a family environment suited for Gettysburg. I am not a resident of Pennsylvania, but I am a visitor to Gettysburg and I would like to think the state would protect this NATIONAL shrine.

Stop gambling and casino!!

I gave 20 years of my life to this country and the US Navy. I have many scars to testify that it was not always an easy 20 years. I have more awards than just the Purple Heart, and I am proud of all of them. So I feel qualified to speak my mind.

Why is this great country so eager to ignore the sacrifices of the people who fought and struggled to make the kind of country we now have? Is it just money? Have we condescended into a country of, sell anything, be anything, do anything for money? There is a word for those kind of people, (that are usually found on street corners.) I won't say it, but I certainly think it.

see back notes

Please do not choose this area near historical Gettsburg to put in a casino.
Thank you.

The special area in which we are so fortunate to live is no place for a den of iniquity such as a gambling parlor.

I support the Mason-Dixon Resort because of the influx of jobs and tax relief it will bring to Adams County. Adams countians have just recieved a new property assessment and many will lose their homes because they cannot afford to pay the ever increasing school and property taxes. I am on a fixed income as many others are, so do we eat? take our medications? or pay our taxes and keep our homes? Please allow the Mason-Dixon Resort to come to Adams County.

Please do not put a casino in historical Gettsburg.
Thank you.

I am related to the first soldier killed at Gettysburg, George Washington Sandoe. I've researched him, his life, his early death and my connection to him. I also researched and created the Underground Railroad Tour of Adams County. I tell people on this tour about slavery and why my ancestor fought in the Union army to try to end it. My family has been here for 7 generations. I think of my birthplace as a sacred place, hallowed ground and an American Treasure that I happily share with people from around the world when they visit our preserved lands. We should make decisions based on the next 7 generations and I do not think a casino is proper at Gettysburg, nor would I appreciate one at Ground Zero or Arlington Cemetery, other hallowed American grounds. I see a casino there as a detriment to our tourist industry which has been supported by millions of dollars of state funds on several projects in the past. I wonder why you now want to hurt an industry in which we used state funds to build-up. Further it is the place where Lincoln gave his address reminding us to honor the dead and that they have not died in vane. Please remember his words and vote no to this project at this special place. Keep it as an American Treasure and do not desecrate this hallowed ground.

Why I am against the Casino in Gettysburg

Thank you for taking my statement.

Though not a resident of Gettysburg nor of the state itself, I do go to Gettysburg so much that I know all the back ways in town so I can maneuver around it during the heavy tourism times of the year.

In reviewing the amount I spend in Gettysburg, it totals about \$2000 a year. That is across multiple visits.

I love Gettysburg and the surrounding area so much that I am giving serious thought to retiring into the area in the near future. But now, I have put these thoughts on hold till I see what happens.

Why? I live in a state New Jersey that at one time thought gambling was the answer, the cure all to all of its ills. The needs for education, improvement of roads, schools and all the other parts of the infrastructure that comes with modern life. Now New Jersey is scrambling trying to revive gambling. This easy money. In the meantime we have sold our soul to a kind of business that has done nothing but deepen suburban sprawl, wiped out so much of our history. For what. The cheap dollar.

Now the sirens song of quick easy money, has come to the very door step of one of our greatest historical parks. While listening to this sirens song of easy money there is something far greater.

There is something a great deal more to this. A great deal more. For you see, its about the gift of life itself and then the men of New Jersey who gave their lives so this nation might live.

There were at least 4 units from New Jersey whos locations and place of sacrificial service are under less then a half mile to where its purposed to go. And one regiment well for a number of men from it, its that view of the tree line which the casino complex is behind, is the very last thing they see, before their lives are snuffed out.

Men.. Actually some of them were mere boys, 16, 17 at the most. For you see as the Peach Orchard is basically run over by Barksdales Mississippians the 7th New Jersey will lose its Colonel and Clarkes Battery B, will have fired their guns so much and lose several men, that they have to junk their guns.

Butt as the 18 Mississippi along with its sister regiments make a left turn around the Sherfy farm barn and house they are now within range of the musketts of the 11th New Jersey. The 11th New Jersey has made an adjustment to meet this threat. And as they do, in their line of sight down the Emmitsburg Rd is now where this site is.

As they are given the order, Ready, up would come their rifles to their shoulders, Aim, now their cheeks are resting up againts the stock of the gun, looking down the sights, at the approaching enemy, FIRE! And all 280 muskets would have let loose a thunderous volley sending their rounds down range!! But as they have done, they have to reload, and they began to take casualties. And men would begin to fall, including their Colonel though severaly wounded. he would live on.

But this regiment would pay dearly in human life. Of the 290 officers and men taken into combat that day, barely 100 are left standing at the end of it. A number of them walking wounded including the only officer left standing that day above Lieutenant. John Schoonover. The regiments, adjutant or bookkeeper.

We all know how life is so precious. And its because of that, and then how willingly these brave men from New Jersey layed it all on the line, a gambling parlor so close to this sacrifice is so dishonoring, and so cheapens their sacrifice.

No.... No casino at Gettysburg. Any time, any where any how. The sacrifice of life, even these men from New Jersey have paid too high a price to have it only cheapened by this.

Thank you for your precious time

James H. Lamason
Middlesex, New Jersey.

Gettysburg Battlefield, Adams County, Pennsylvania is truly one of our nation`s most treasured, inspiring places. The battle fought and won here forever changed the course of our nation`s history. This `hallowed ground` does not need a gambling casino at its edge. No jobs but menial ones, no profits for any but the already wealthy investors, and no tax abatement for our community will occur. Please consider this as you debate your decision about a casino at Gettysburg.

Name: **Charles T. Riquer**

State: **NY**

County: **Chatauqua**

ID: **626**

RegID: **789**

It would be a grave injustice to allow a Casino that close to that Hallowed ground where thousands have died. Please do not allow this to happen. This is sacred ground and should be treated as such!

Lincoln said, `we can not dedicate, we can not consecrate, we can not hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract.`

I have been visiting Gettysburg with my friends and family on a regular basis for the last 8 years. My GG Grandfather Edward Unangst fought for the 153rd Pennsylvania (Company C) and was wounded on Barlow`s Knoll on Day One of the Battle.

Although i don`t live in Gettysburg at the moment, I plan on making it my home in the near future. I visit on average of 15 days a year. Gettysburg is a very special place to me and an important part of our nations history. Thousands of Men and in some cases women gave their lives for what they believed in. Whether it be Confederate or Union does not matter.

A casino would tarnish their very memory. It does not belong anywhere near a National Treasure like the Gettysburg Battlefield.

I hope that you will Vote No on approving the proposed license.

Thank you .

Todd Heller

GG Grandson of Edward Unangst, Private, 153rd Pennsylvania Infantry Company C

I just returned from a weekend trip to Vicksburg, MS. They do have casinos there. Guess what, their historic downtown is like a ghost town. Most of the shops are empty. It's heartbreaking and all I could think was what if this happens to Gettysburg? What if the casino destroys their historic downtown? That's what makes Gettysburg so special to me, how the downtown is part of the battlefield. Don't let the casino in, don't let it destroy Gettysburg's uniqueness.

Dear Gaming Board,

I am William Hallett, of Newburyport, MA.

Approximately twice a year I visit Gettysburg to further my understanding and to honor a relative from Maine who died from wounds received on Little Round Top.

Since 1999, with the exception of two years, I have been President of the Civil War Roundtable of New Hampshire (www.cwrt-nh.org).

Our group has signed petitions opposing such measures as this casino and others like it as we feel it is not an appropriate place for such a facility.

Some may say that we live too far away for our concerns to matter. I'd like to put it to you this way if I may:

How would Americans feel if France decided to build a casino near the beaches of Normandy within eye shot of the American cemetery there? Would we not want a voice? Would we not oppose such disregard for the men who fought and died there?

On a more personal note, the woman I'm spending my life with and I consider Gettysburg a place we may spend retirement. We already peruse the real estate web sites to gather info. Although it's a few years off, we like to the idea of spending part of our life there.

However, I promise you that if Gettysburg becomes a casino town, not only will our visits be curtailed, but any chance of our residing in the area will disappear.

Thank you,
William Hallett

Name: **Melanie Smerkanich** State: **PA** County: **Montgomery** ID: **635** RegID: **803**

I oppose Mason-Dixon Resorts building a casino on battlefield grounds. This land is sacred and should not be developed.

NO-NO-NO to any sort of gambling establishment near Gettysburg!!! This is a historic site, not suitable for gambling.

Name: **Laura J. Novotny**

State: **PA**

County: **Adams**

ID: **645**

RegID: **813**

I wish to go on record opposing the proposed casino facility for Cumberland Township, Adams County known as Mason-Dixon Resorts. LP. My family has been in Adams County since 1740 - My husband's family has been here since the 1890's - We have been very instrumental in our communities - our business, though in Hanover, employs as many as 1000 people - many live in Adams County.

The creation of a casino at Gettysburg is in direct conflict with the very premise of establishing the National Cemetery and Military Park there. This is a National Shrine. America visits Adams County to reflect upon the pivotal events that transpired there which determined the direction we took as a nation. A casino does not fit the Heritage Tourism model - family oriented, history, rural outdoor activities, etc. It would be tragic to undermine the already established businesses that exist. We should be mindful of the 150th anniversary coming in 2013. There is tremendous opposition nationally to this concept - If a casino is to be successful, there should not be the stigma that exists with this proposal - even those who like to gamble do not want to see this at Gettysburg.

This site was chosen as it was the only one in Adams County that met the room requirement for the licensing NOT because it is a `well established` resort. It has known water issues as it is on a well - not public water/sewer. This watershed area has been nominated as a CRITICAL WATER PLANNING AREA as it meets well beyond the scientific criteria - Please seek the documentation from the DEP. Adams County has limited natural resource capability as it is the origin of two watersheds - there is NO water going into Adams County - this has been why Adams County has not grown like other areas.

The unemployment issues in Adams county reflect the failed housing industry nationwide - Adams County is not as bad as many other areas - Unemployment was not even an issue when this was proposed the first time. We are working to find ways to promote our Heritage Tourism and have already spent millions (Civil War Trails) to showcase what makes Adams County unique - The rural family friendly venues that compliment the valued historic battlefield here should not be compromised by the establishment of a casino - there is already one less than an hour away!

Please - no casino anywhere near this national treasure - this would be a most horrific legacy for future generations. This is not just a local issue. Using these economic times to rationalize the benefits of a casino next to a National Shrine is deplorable. - I ask(with all due respect) that you deny this application and embrace the responsibility that you have, on YOUR watch, on our watch ,to keep the integrity of Gettysburg intact

Sincerely,

Sharon E. Sheppard

A casino so close to the battlefield is a bad idea, pure and simple.

The Gettysburg battlefield commemorates the sacrifice of tens of thousands. The fields saw the bloodiest fighting in North America. Therefore, it is no place for a casino. It will only detract from the local economy, based mostly on visitors coming to see the battlefield and pay their respects to fallen forefathers.

I will enter into evidence, a copy of my speech from the hearing.

Governments are addicted to the campaign cash from gambling promoters.

It has become a rush to the bottom.

Gambling was sold as a way to boost tourism.

Now, tourist centers are closing, and gambling is everywhere.

The economy will continue to decline for the next decade.

Look at Atlantic City, NJ. The latest reports show: It is destitute. Poverty is rampant. Casinos are barely breaking even. Tourism is non-existent. Tax revenues?

Why should an attraction of historical significance be desecrated like Atlantic City?

As a military veteran, I find it offensive for a gambling casino to be placed near Gettysburg National Battlefield. While serving in the United States Air Force I had the opportunity to visit Gettysburg on several occasions. It is a solemn place commemorating where over 8,000 men laid down their lives during one of the worst times in our nation's history. The 150th anniversary of that event is soon approaching and to have a casino built that close to one of the world-reknown sites of the War Between The States is contemptable and obscene to me. Having been to Gettysburg on numerous occasions, I know for a fact there are other locations that casino could be placed. I feel this plan is nothing more than to try to encourage those who are visiting Gettysburg National Battlefield to learn about our nation's history and educate children to come partake in a gaming operation and that is cynical and contemptable on behalf of Mason-Dixon Resorts. Let them find another spot to erect their operation, and not try to earn money on the memory of those who died at Gettysburg.

I am a 44 year old woman who was born and raised in the town of Gettysburg. I am also a veteran of the United States Marine Corps. I fully support the plans for this casino. I do not feel that its location or purpose in any way is disrespectful to those who gave their lives on this battlefield in preservation of our freedoms. Part of those freedoms is the choice in how we spend our money.

The casino will give those tourists who visit Gettysburg to see the Battlefield something to do in the evenings after the National Park is closed. It may even encourage some to stay for longer periods of time.

As for the local people who would choose to patronize the casino, I fail to see the problem with this. Most likely those would be the same people who are currently driving to Harrisburg to patronize the Hollywood Casino, or taking bus trips to Charlestown, WV or Atlantic City, NJ. Where is the problem with keeping that money in our county instead of letting it travel away.

Please do not allow `outside` people to influence what should be a local decision. Those of us who live closest have seen the struggle in our local communities. Between the National Park, The Gettysburg College, and the many churches, there is not a lot of taxable property in Gettysburg to generate the needed operating funds so that streets get paved, bridges get fixed, police are available, and our schools have what they need to provide decent education.

This leads to extremely high taxes for those of us who are not `non-taxable`. This is what led my family to relocate to New Oxford eight years ago. I would have loved to raise my family closer to the same area in which I grew up, but the high taxes forced us to look outside of the Gettysburg area.

Thank you for your time in reading my comments.

Regards,
Diana Henry

My son and I have visited Gettysburg NMP for the last several years and plan to continue to do so. I am absolutely appalled by this proposal to build a casino near the park and am 100% opposed to its construction. It is inconceivable to me that such an action is even being considered at Gettysburg and just the mere thought of it is a travesty and an insult to the thousands that fought and died (and that thought is just for starters).

Build it somewhere else miles from Gettysburg!!!!

Our life styles in Adams County are on a fast pace of change that is taking our quality of life away. I oppose the casino because our younger generation is already distracted by technology of games to the point of harming themselves and others, gambling is addictive and leads to misuse of money needed for wholesome family life, and the smoke screen of propaganda that tries to persuade us that this evil is a good thing, is disturbing! As a mother of four and grandmother of nine, I feel compelled to speak against this intrusion and negative impact on our lives!

Adams County`s treasures are it`s monumental historical significance and its rural agricultural-based heritage. Many people come to live here or visit here because of those treasures. A casino does not fit and will be a blemish on the landscape.

As a resident of New Jersey who frequents the Gettysburg Parks and area as often as possible I would just like to ask the Commission not to allow this beautiful and historic area where men died for their beliefs and where much of the future of our nation was decided to be permanently and forever destroyed by placing a casino in this area. You have only ONE chance to preserve this so future generations can enjoy and learn the lessons to be learned from this beautiful battlefield and suurounding area. Thank you very much for allowing me to express my feelings and great love for this area and hope for it`s preservation.

It seems that the building of a casino in the environs of Gettysburg would do a disservice to posterity. Gambling reflects poorly on both the meaning and usage of the grounds surrounding. If it would be granted, it should be no closer than twenty miles. Gamblers have easy access to the casino in the Harrisburg area. Why is another one truly necessary?

I oppose having a gambling casino in Gettysburg, because it does not belong in the most famous Civil War site in the country! This site is hallowed ground and heritage tourists come here to walk the battlefields and visit historical dwellings, not to gamble. It is a fact that since a casino was built in Vicksburg, Miss. there has been a 40% loss in tourism. There are other locations throughout Pennsylvania that are more conducive to opening a casino! There is at least one resort area where a casino would fit in nicely. The other locations are not history driven like Gettysburg. This town is the most unique place in the state! People from the outside are telling us we need a gambling establishment. We are the ones to disagree with those decisions! Choose a more appropriate location when making your final decision. Deep in your hearts you know that the hallowed town of Gettysburg is not the right fit for a casino. Thank You!
(Marv Brilliant)

Name: **Rollin L. Schwab**

State: **FL**

County: **Marion**

ID: **697**

RegID: **872**

I do not support this invasion of our countries growth heritage. Please consider those who sacrificed there lives for us.

Please don't do this.

Please think of those who gave there lives for us.

Name: **Jerri K. Patton** State: **HI** County: **Oahu** ID: **701** RegID: **874**

NO CASINO!

Allowing a casino and gambling operation so close to the hallowed ground of the Gettysburg Battlefield would be an affront to the thousands of Americans who fought and died there.

Dear Sir:

Let me start by saying that my letter is not addressing any moral issues with respect to gamblers or gambling. I seek to simply relate my experience and observations of the impact gambling and casinos have on small towns.

With respect to the casino issue, there are a good many pros and cons ... most of which sound reasonable. Yes, some jobs may develop; low paying service industry jobs, not high wage move up the corporate ladder jobs. What we, as a community, will have to spend on upgrading local infrastructure to support the community increases brought about by gambling and casinos alone far outweighs any income for the community! I have lived through a similar Yes/No gambling issue and wish to share what I have observed/learned firsthand.

I spent 44 years in the Navy, 22 military and 22 as a Navy civilian. One of my duty stations many years ago was in Biloxi, Mississippi. At that time, small businesses were thriving and concerned primarily beach-going, shrimp and crab boats, and deep sea fishing. The primary central community interest involved Christian religious events; church socials, fairs, and fund-raisers; additionally, charity work was encouraged and well respected. These events occurred in a wholesome, peaceful, and loving atmosphere within which most parents preferred to live to better raise children, help your neighbors, and to assist those in need. Generally speaking, a person did not have to lock their car doors or houses ... and if a person needed help of any sort, there were many friends and neighbors available to lend a hand...much like the current lifestyle within Gettysburg today.

After that enjoyable tour of duty in Biloxi, I was transferred to many other duty stations both within the U.S. and overseas. After I retired from Navy military duty and assumed responsibilities as a Navy civilian, I had occasion to be transferred from the Pentagon to Eglin AFB in Fort Walton Beach, Florida. Having such fond memories of Biloxi and now living only a short distance away I took advantage of a long weekend and drove over to Biloxi to renew old acquaintances and revisit all my favorite old haunts. Boy was I shocked when I drove into town for the first time after so many years away. No longer were there thriving small businesses, only long lines of casinos. Gone were the corner milk shake stores, replaced by pawn brokers. The police station was now triple the size of the old building in order to accommodate a force that was now four times the size. The local paper used to report on disturbing the peace issues, speeding tickets and accidents, as well as high school pranks gone wild such as tipping cows. In place of these violations of the law, the paper was now filled with breaking and entering, armed robbery, stolen vehicles, assault and battery, rape, prostitution, murder, and many drug related crimes...buying and selling drugs and the beginning appearances of gangs such as MS13.

Most of my old friends had moved away from the now rowdy and crime-filled areas to locales away from those associated with gambling and casinos. As for jobs, the vast majority of the jobs went to `imported` experienced casino workers from out of state or experienced staff workers from other casinos in Las Vegas, Reno, Atlantic City, and so on.

The Biloxi community standards, ethics, and atmosphere changed dramatically from something wholesome, peaceful, and nurturing to violent and self-centered. Gettysburg is now on the verge of determining whether to allow gambling or to remain as it is. I say, NO CASINOS! What a downright shame it would be for all concerned to have our community be known as just another gambling town...with all its gaudiness and rowdy goings on.

I am now retired from the Navy and have just moved to Gettysburg, having chosen Gettysburg as my retirement community, one that offers a good life, high community standards, clean air, and friendly neighbors. If Gettysburg grants permission for a casino to operate within the area, it is only a matter of time before more and more casinos open for business and then she too will become another Biloxi. What a shame!

I can think of many reasons why I do not support a casino in Gettysburg, but I consider 2 of them very important to state publically. The first is the claim that it will bring jobs and it`s stated as a positive factor. In reality, its simple mathematics - there must be more losers than winners to be able to meet that payroll.

For every positive that is claimed for the casino, there is an equal negative reaction to the public at large. Speaking as one that lives in a State that allows gambling, it also increases the number of clinics to deal with the addictions and increases crime rates to feed those addictions.

This brings me to my second reason. Simply, Gettysburg is hallowed ground on which Americans from both the North and South fought and died on and this ground is tied to that sacrifice which united this great nation. A casino unites noting except individuals and sorrow. It does separate an individual and money that can be better used for their families or society in healthier ways.

The only economic reason to bring a casino to of all places Gettysburg is to tap the million plus tourists and we come to see where this nation witnessed ‘the new birth of freedom’, not throw our money away in a casino.

Please do not tie this ground with this casino. Let it forever be tied to the victory for a nation not the victory for the first casino in Pennsylvania.

I will admit that I do not know all of the facts of this situation but as a student of American history and the Civil War in particular I am appalled at the idea of a casino being built on or around the Gettysburg battlefield. Gettysburg is not just a battle fought between two armies it is a piece of our national character in both the North and the South. It should not be tarnished but held apart. One of my favorite childhood memories is off camping at Gettysburg with the Boy Scouts and hiking the Confederate and Union trails, seeing the different places I had read about. Now that I have a son I plan I returning someday with him.

MR LEVAN HIMSELF GAVE THE MOST ELOQUENT REASON FOR NOT HAVING A CASINO IN GETTYSBURG. IN AN INTERVIEW CONCERNING THE DECOR OR LIGHTING OUTSIDE THE CASINO, MR LEVAN SAID `THIS IS NOT LAS VEGAS`. I WOULD HOPE EVERYONE WOULD KEEP THAT IN MIND WHILE DECIDING ON A LICENSE FOR THE CASINO. I HAVE VISITED ALL 50 STATES AND HAVE SEEN WHAT CAN HAPPEN WHEN A CASINO MOVES IN.

I AM ASKING THAT YOU CONSIDER THE IMPLICATIONS OF A CASINO SO CLOSE TO THE GETTYSBURG BATTLEFIELD.

THANK YOU.

I will not voice opposition to gambling in the state of Pennsylvania, as the legislature and governor have enacted the permission of gambling as a lawful activity. However, I am opposed to the granting of gambling licenses in certain locations of the state. I would feel it is entirely inappropriate, for example, to have a casino near a school, a church or a cemetery. It is also wrong to construct a casino AT the largest battlefield in North America. Please note that the operative word is AT. Even though Mason-Dixon Resorts, LP is not within the NPS boundaries, at 1/2 mile from the park, it probably did have some engagements of battle during the July 1863 battle on its site.

I am not a resident of Gettysburg, but a tourist and a frequent visitor. Putting aside the disgrace to honoring those that gave their lives for our freedom at that site, this area does not have sufficient infrastructure to support a casino. What roads will the gamblers take? Steinwehr out of Gettysburg? What will Mason-Dixon ask for next, widening that road to four lane? Just because a law has been enacted doesn't mean sacred ground should be demeaned in this fashion.

In conclusion, Gettysburg is America's small town. It is a place for families to visit and feel secure. I beg of you to deny this application.

Anthony M. Zaffuto
700 Chestnut Ave.
DuBois, PA 15801
(814) 375-0359

Respectfully request that the PGCB does not grant permission for a casino in or near Gettysburg out of respect for the hallowed memory of ~50,000 men who fought and died here. It is important to keep this region respectful and intact; preserve the history of the area for quiet historical reflection. Casino belongs elsewhere; this is a bad idea for Gettysburg. Have you considered York as a venue? Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely, Mimi Kotner, San Diego, CA.

My name is Heather Preece, I am the wife of 1Lt Reed Preece of the PA Army National Guard. My husband was deployed over seas from Sept 08-Sept 09. During that time his Stryker was hit by an IED and he nearly died. Many people forget that Gettysburg is not only a historical site, but also a site where many brave men gave their lives. My husband, as well as men and women from past, present, and future deserve to be honored. Today our town proudly memorialize those men who fought in that battle. The addition of a casino to such a historical place diminishes the historical charm of Gettysburg as well as dishonoring those who are buried here.

Name: **Don Kopp** State: **PA** County: **Adams** ID: **711** RegID: **886**

Gambling can and usually does become an addiction that destroys individuals and families. The desire to get rich quick undermines a person`s ambition and erodes his morals.

Over 100 years ago our local, state, and national leadership began a process to honor and preserve the battlefields of Gettysburg – the place where our republic was saved through the mortal combat of its citizens. It was not long after the struggle in Gettysburg that they realized that the sacrifices of individuals, families, and communities made on this and other battlefields demanded a national tribute as an eternal symbol to their courage and resolve. And so, with this vision began the preservation process which is now recognized worldwide as one of the defining symbols of American life.

There are moments in history which epitomize a people and their values – the battle of Gettysburg is one of those moments.

With this tribute in mind, it took great courage to establish what has become one of the most recognized battlefields in the world. Sacrifices over the years since the battle have been numerous and frequently unknown. It was not popular with some who had to surrender their land to the battlefield; it was not popular to some who had to close down or move their businesses from the battlefield; but those sacrifices were recognized by all as important to the continued tribute to those who fought at Gettysburg.

Throughout the years, preservation has had its challenges.

As funds have become available, many from national organizations, the effort to expand the national park has continued. Some of our citizens have even donated their properties in tribute. As many historians point out, the Battle of Gettysburg was fought over an area much larger than what is currently defined by the ‘official’ boundaries.

Just because an area is not owned by the NPS does not mean that it’s not hallowed ground!

The site of Camp Letterman, the largest field hospital in the Civil War, is up for sale. Thousands died there.

The current WalMart site had historic structures which were involved in the fighting here.

The Daniel Lady farm, recently preserved, was also a significant headquarters. All of these properties lie outside the official boundaries of the battlefield.

It is now time for you to demonstrate your vision, courage and resolve to preserve the tribute which has been honored by generations of Americans. To trade on the proximity of Gettysburg with a gambling casino is an affront to all those who have sacrificed during the battle and since the battle toward perpetuating the essence of the sacrifice at Gettysburg. It will degrade and cheapen the global image of the greatest small town in America.

What price patriotism? What price honor? What price sacrifice?

I respectfully ask that you show the same vision and courage – resolve to deny the establishment of a casino at Gettysburg.

My wife and I moved to Gettysburg 9 years ago. We moved here because of the battlefield and not for work. I work in Rockville, MD and make the commute everyday just so that we can live in this wonderful town. I feel that the battle is taking a back seat as to why people want to come and visit Gettysburg. It is becoming a hang out for bikers and may be gamblers. The battlefied is Gettysburg.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts on why I feel a license should be granted to the Mason-Dixon Resort Group for the proposed casino to be located in the existing Eisenhower Inn.

There has been much concern expressed over the close proximity (6/10 of a mile) to a portion of the Gettysburg National Military Park, known as the South Cavalry. It has been alleged that this area had significant fighting during the three day Gettysburg battle and also that there may be a large number of soldiers buried on the site in unmarked graves. I would like to, in my opinion clarify some issues:

1. If this particular area is such importance, than why is the first official welcoming sign for the Gettysburg National Military Park, located 8/10 of a mile north of the South Cavalry field location?
2. Aside from a couple of markers located on the South Cavalry field site, there is no other identification features making this site known. To the `average` person just passing by, this site is basically unknown. There are no guided bus tours that visit the area, a visitors center building located approximately one mile to the north of the South Cavalry field site is closed and has been closed for years.
3. Looking south along business route 15 (Emmitsburg) road toward the Eisenhower Inn, you cannot see the Inn nor any of it`s property features. The Eisenhower Inn, years ago was known as a Ramada Inn and also housed a sort of mini-mall with numerous retail shops and a movie theater. I point this out because never was there any protest or complaints made concerning that property or any of the other commercial/retail properties that are located between the Eisenhower Inn property and the South Cavalry field currently, to include a large Boyds Bear Museum and store, a military surplus store, a motorcycle sales & repair shop, a motel and several other businesses.
4. Gettysburg is a tourist town largely due to the battlefield, however, not everyone that visits Gettysburg comes to see the battlefield, some come for soccer tournaments during the year, some come for the wine fests, the Gettysburg College draws large numbers of visitors for various events that they present, bike week draws large numbers of visitors. The battlefield cannot be counted on to be the major draw for Gettysburg, 365 days a year. Your average visitor wants some variety to experience during their visit, and a casino would offer that variety, not to mention that it would also bring in additional visitors as opposed to chasing visitors away as some would suggest.
5. Your average visitor to Gettysburg, doesn`t come with charts,books, maps, etc., and study the battlefield. They come to spend probably two - three days and they want to see as much as they can and do as much as they can in that time. And depending on the season, the casino would be a added draw in the winter months.
6. There has been recent talks concerning the proposed construction of a `mega` casino possibly in the Anne Arundel area of Maryland. If this happens, more Pennsylvania residents will take their business out of state, thus depriving Adams County of more potential revenue. People are going to gamble,whether it be cards, slots, lottery, racing, etc. Why let this revenue go to bordering states, keep it here in Adams County and Pennsylvania.
7. There have been those that have indicated that the casino will be making money off the memory of all those soldiers that gave their lives here. Well, look around at all the businesses in Gettysburg, isn`t that what all of them are basically doing. Isn`t the National Park Service doing the same thing, i.e., they have a food concession in the new visitors center, along with a book/souvenior store, do they not charge

admission to the center itself. People go into business to make money, yes, whether it be a `mom & pop` restaurant, a trinket or t-shirt shop or a casino. David Levan and his wife have given back to the Gettysburg community on numerous occasions, to include revitalizing the down town area with the assistance for the Majestic Theater and Performing Arts Center, assisting the Borough with the acquisition of motor vehicles to enhance their patrols, assisting a local church with its beautification project, donating land to the National Park, and the list goes on and on. I seriously think that the last thing that is on David LeVans mind, nor his partners is to bring harm to the Gettysburg National Military Park nor to the memory of the soldiers that died here. Adams County, Gettysburg and its residents who raise their families here, pay taxes here and die here should have a voice is what happens here.

Again, thank you for your time.

This project would be incompatible with the area it is proposed for. A small town cannot absorb the negative impacts associated with a casino in the same way that a larger metropolitan area can—traffic, businesses like pawn shops that cater to people who go to the casino, the allure for people of low-income and youth. It would most likely create an atmosphere that puts at risk many of the outstanding attributes of our lovely town, changing it forever.

Secondly, we live in a prized gem; the battle here was pivotal for the history of our country. To build a casino on the battlefield makes a mockery of Gettysburg's historical significance. I believe we should treat the battlefield with due respect and locate the casino elsewhere.

As a Pennsylvania taxpayer and historian, I most strongly oppose the construction of any gambling facility in Adams County. A casino is completely inconsistent with the hallowed ground around Gettysburg.

Firstly, I oppose a casino near Gettysburg due to the unique and paramount position the battlefield and town hold in the American consciousness. What took place here in 1863 helped to define who we are as Americans. A casino here would be a blight on the American landscape. To grant Mason-Dixon Resorts a gaming license would be shameful and disgraceful.

Secondly, I oppose a casino here for the negative impact it would have on the area. It would undoubtedly siphon some business away from the already struggling downtown. The site the proposed casino would occupy sits in a quiet, rural area along two lane Emmitsburg Road, Business Rt. 15. It wouldn't be long until houses along that road go up for sale to make room for gas stations, convenience stores, gift shops, restaurants, more motels, etc. This would have a definite impact on traffic, noise, and water and energy use, as well as change the character of what is essentially now a `back road`. Emmitsburg Road could one day resemble US Rt 30 east of Gettysburg, which resembles every other small American town clobbered by sprawl.

I grew up in a small city in Ohio and watched the downtown die, as well as the surrounding bucolic farmland, as sprawl changed it for the worse forever. Gettysburg is too special to deserve such a fate. Please deny Mason-Dixon Resorts a gaming license. America is watching.

Name: **Jerome E. Dietrich** State: **PA** County: **adam** ID: **727** RegID: **904**

We dont need more crime in gettysburg the people dont want this casino dont you understand english

The people already voted once before We dont need more crime ,and problems in Gettysburg .
look at the outskirts of alantic city. You will not be the ones paying for it we will be

Name: **Jerome E. Dietrich**

State: **PA**

County: **adam**

ID: **729**

RegID: **904**

The people voted againt it before dont you get it we dont want in Gettysburg

We moved to Adams County 25 years ago and chose to live in Cumberland Township because of the rural setting and its proximity to Gettysburg. I did not move here to live close to a casino. Gettysburg is a small town and I fear that a casino will overwhelm it. Gettysburg has such historic importance that I want nothing to detract from that.

Although I am not a resident of your beautiful state, I have visited Gettysburg multiple times.

But I must say that my visits would not be as enjoyable, nor as frequent, if the area were to include a casino. Such places will add nothing to the features and qualities that make Gettysburg so very unique, and they will provide nothing but a burden to the local government and law enforcement.

We are proud members of the Missouri Civil War Reenactors Association, MCWRA....We are active in promoting the history and living history of the civil war. I strongly urge you to say no to a casino being built on the grounds of a civil war battle. This is hallow ground, where many laid down their lives for this great country. We need to protect this historic site, I do not want to come here and see a casino where there should be a peaceful, thoughtful, and respect for our forefathers. Thank you for saying NO..

No to the casino being built on hallow ground. They should be ashamed of themselves.

This is wrong, wrong , wrong, this is hallow ground of our forefathers who laid down their lives for this great country. They should be ashamed of themselves.

Name: **Nick Burchett** State: **MO** County: **Pulaski** ID: **740** RegID: **916**

NO CASINO IN GETTYSBURG!

Please consider not approving this casino at Gettysburg. It would be like putting a casino next to Arlington National Cemetery. This is not what Gettysburg needs. Money would be better spent preserving out National Parks, not building casinos next to them. It is an insult to all our ancestors who fought in the Civil War on both sides and gave their lives for their country. This is a case where `progress` is not a positive thing. Thank you for considering my comments and those of others who feel as I do.

I have nothing against casino`s but in this matter I do question the placement of one so close to the boundaries of the Gettysburg Battlefield National Park and on the Gettysburg Campaign area.

While the Casino`s developers may feel this is an Adams County Resident only issue, nothing can be farther from the truth. The national importance of the Gettysburg site is without question, and that simple fact that the majority of soldiers were from other states does make this of concern to non-Adams County residents. Hundreds upon thousand of non-Adams County residents come to Gettysburg every year and pump thousands of dollars into the area as they visit the battlefield.

The Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War is under way--is this Casino going to be the legacy of that remembrance?

Find another location please!

As a history teacher and living historian, I oppose the idea to put a casino anywhere near the Gettysburg battle field. This is hallowed ground and should be respected as such. As to the reference that the casino spokesman told the newspaper `We have no concern whatsoever for anybody outside of Adams County who may oppose this project.` I say to this that we are the ones who may come to Gettysburg with our money and financial support for the area, however if there is a casino there I WILL NOT give any money to a casino that has no respect for the lives that were lost in this area during the Civil War. I beg you to take your business elsewhere.

Dear Gaming Control Board Members:

I strongly oppose the application to place a casino near Gettysburg National Park.

I used to work for the Pennsylvania State Senate and I very seriously considered relocating to Gettysburg this past spring and summer, so I know Adams County fairly well. I drove nearly 30,000 miles and looked at nearly 50 communities throughout America in deciding where to move and Gettysburg was one of my top five contenders. Unlike, for example, Tombstone, Arizona, Gettysburg has both reverence for its past and a solid economy and presence in the present.

Gettysburg's tourism base is in heritage tourism and agricultural tourism. A casino would add virtually nothing and subtract a great deal from that base. There's an inherent tackiness to casinos that would genuinely harm the hallowed ground of the soldiers who fought and died there and the equally hallowed ground of the generations of family farmers in Adams County. Unlike a horse racing track like Saratoga, which builds on a region's agricultural heritage, the sort of gambling facility the applicant proposes is at best a pig with lipstick.

From a purely economic development standpoint, I don't believe that Gettysburg is the best location in south central PA for the applicant's proposed facility. Both York and Chambersburg, each less than an hour's drive from the proposed site, can offer scenery, genuinely need new tourism revenues and can still send folks tired of gambling to Gettysburg.

I strongly urge the Gaming Control Board to reject the applicant's proposed facility. I also encourage the applicant to look at Chambersburg or York if they're that committed to a gaming facility in south central Pennsylvania. I'm not up on the horse racing industry or Pennsylvania gaming and racing law, but if an equestrian facility complete with a race track would be a viable option for the site, I'd encourage the applicant to consider that as well.

Thank you for considering my comments. Please be aware that I am a member of the Civil War Preservation Trust but I do not work for or represent the Trust in any way and my comments have not yet been seen by any member or employee of the CWPT.

Sincerely,

Tom Pelikan

A major portion of income for Gettysburg and Adams County is based on the NATIONAL heritage found here. Yes, the battlefield is a local site, but it is a national treasure that the local jurisdictions economically benefit from.

Locating a casino so close to a national treasure would seriously jeopardize the continued economic benefits to the local jurisdiction because people from around the nation and the globe would be far less inclined to visit and spend their money. Simply put, the history and heritage of the area would be valued significantly less because of the location of the casino.

###

Being the only major war to be fought on American soil and Gettysburg being the most remembered and maybe the most historical of those battlefields, the area surrounding should remain pristine. Bringing in a casino is no way to remember the fallen that are still among the hills and fields of Gettysburg. Having ancestors that fought in these hallowed fields, I believe this is no memorial to those that lived through Gettysburg or those that died. It is a disgrace against what either side fought for. You must look for a better location that will not interfere with the memories and remains of this terrible time in our history. If we do not preserve it then our childrens grandchildren will never know the sacrifice made by their ancestors to help form this great nation that we live in.

Name: **Genine M. Smith** State: **PA** County: **York** ID: **750** RegID: **931**

This is not the place for a casino, Gettysburg is not only a national treasure but a sacred place where many men died and a casino would cheapen that sacrifice. Find somewhere else to build this casino, York would welcome it and so would other areas, just not in Gettysburg.

I am asking that Cumberland Township/Adams County deny the proposal by Mason-Dixon Resorts, LP to build a casino in Gettysburg.

I find it extremely disturbing that the spokesman for Mason-Dixon Resorts, LP would make such an inflammatory statement as this: "We have no concern whatsoever for anybody outside of Adams County who may oppose this project."

The Battle of Gettysburg was fought by men from all over the U.S., not just by Adams County men. Therefore, Mr. Spokesman, people from all over the U.S. are entitled to speak out against the proposal of a casino on this "Hallowed Ground", especially those for who Gettysburg is the final resting place of a family member. To disregard their feelings on the issue nauseates me.

When I first heard about the proposal to build a casino in Gettysburg, I felt it was the wrong move. Now I want nothing more than for this proposal to fail. It's not that I don't want Adams County to have a boost in their economy. It's because of the sheer ignorance and total disregard Mason-Dixon Resorts, LP has shown to all Americans who have ties to the Battle of Gettysburg.

Please deny this application from Mason-Dixon Resorts, LP.

I am totally against a cassino in the Cumberland Twp. Adams County.

The `proposed` cassino in Adams County will bring nothing but an increase in crime, drugs, etc. to Adams County, Gettysburg boro, the Gettysburg National Military Park and the surrounding communities.

Areas that have cassinos through out the country have seen as high as an 84% increase in crime and a high increase in drugs.

I strongly disagree with Rep. Dan Moul`s statement, “People from outside of this area will not be affected by this (project),” finished Moul. “We will, and I`d like it to stay our issue.”

This increase in crime isn`t going to stay within the borders of the Cumberland Twp. Adams Co. area, they will flow over to the surrounding areas, as proven by studies done by the government on crime.

`Moul countered that there are no “grey areas” concerning the park boundary, and that the properties neighboring the hotel site are zoned for commercial, mixed-use businesses, such as a casino`

If Pennsylvania and Adams County would follow the Antietam Battlefield and Sharpsburg Md concept of keeping the area as `pristine` as possible, they would do alot more to attract tourist to the area.

And finally, yes the surrounding areas of the Gettysburg National Military Park are `zoned commercial`, but why not use some common sense instead of greed to decide what gets built and what doesn`t?

I would have to ask the question, what is in this decision for you personally Mr. Moul?

Name: **Sandy Sabinske**

State: **WV**

County: **Fayette**

ID: **754**

RegID: **935**

If it was JUST any old Adams County I would say it`s up to the residents of that county.

HOWEVER, This is Gettysburg it`s a `NATIONAL CIVIL WAR SITE` We need to preserve this now and forever.....

Thank You
Sandy Sabinske

Ladies and Gentleman

I am writing in regard to the planned casino at one of our nation's most cherished places ... Gettysburg. Men from blue and gray fought on this hallowed ground in one of the most pivotal battles in the history of this great country. Those men on both sides fought and died on these hallowed grounds, some to preserve this country some to start their own nation.... but regardless they were all Americans.

Many of these solders families have visited this special place and walked where there ancestors walked from Devils Den to the Wheatfield, to the Round Tops, Cemenary Ridge to walking where one of the greatest charges in the world known as Pickett's charge took place.

We as American`s need to remember these men that gave the last full measure of devotion that they will never be forgotten and these men did not die in vain and we can never forget what they did at Gettysburg.

These men were from Virginia, Maine, Massachusetts, Alabama, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and across the rest of the north and south, this issue with building the casino at Gettysburg is a National Issue not just one for Gettysburg and Adams County. To degrade this hallowed ground is ill responsible, this is not the right location for this casino just like Wal-Mart has no place at the Wilderness and there was no place for a mall at Manassas and a Limestone Quarry at Cedar Creek all of these desecrate what these men did.

Take a moment and remember what these men did at Gettysburg and the 4 years this country was at war please say no to this proposed casino and yes to conserving this ground and teaching people about our heritage and history.

Ladies and Gentleman

I am writing in regard to the planned casino at one of our nation's most cherished places ... Gettysburg. Men from blue and gray fought on this hallowed ground in one of the most pivotal battles in the history of this great country. Those men on both sides fought and died on these hallowed grounds, some to preserve this country some to start their own nation.... but regardless they were all Americans.

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Take a moment and remember what these men did at Gettysburg and the 4 years this country was at war please say no to this proposed casino and yes to conserving this ground and teaching people about our heritage and history.

There were 53,000 casualties at the Battle of Gettysburg. 7,000 men died there: Men who came to Gettysburg from all over North America to fight for their respective beliefs. Today, their descendants and people from all over the world come to Gettysburg Battlefield to honor their memory.

Adams County is not restricted to Gettysburg. Why must you build so close to the Battlefield? Because you want to siphon off the tourist traffic for your gambling enterprises! There are other locations in Adams County or neighboring counties where you could build that would help the local economy just as successfully; why haven't you chosen alternative sites?

Like the 911 Mosque in New York, you may have the legal right to build, but it is morally wrong and disrespects those who died there as well as those who honor them and you know it. Just as the men who died at Gettysburg were representative of a Nation, this is not a local issue. It is a National issue and a National Park that belongs to the People of the United States - not just Adams County.

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I cannot understand why those who feel it necessary for those of us that do not live in Adams County not be allowed to voice our opinion on this topic. I visit Gettysburg 1-2 times a year. Therefore, I sincerely feel that it is my right as a citizen living in or around the Gettysburg area, other state or what ever the case may be, may most certianly voice there opinion, It breaks my heart to know that this stupid casino has to be place on, near and around hallowed ground. I have been reading books on Gettysburg and getting the full benefits of the free ranger talks when I visit there; that it just breaks my heart to think that you need to put a casino there. The civil war involved human life, tragadies that go beyond human imagination and it is still a town scared with all that happened. How can you possibly feel that a casino would not destroy what is sacred to so many of us and those people that played a huge part in it? Are you thinking about them? I fully opose this idea and so should every one else!

This is not about slot machines or poker tables, this is about Hallowed ground for thousands of men who fought for their rights in the civil war! We need to remember them, just as we remember the victims of 9/11. Just as I am opposed to the building of a mosque being built near the happenings of 9/11, the same concept applies here!

If you want to build a casino, FINE...just don`t do it on the Gettysburg battlefield. Have some respect for the fallen soldiers and not worry so much about how much you can make in monetary value! A casino here in gettysburg is a NO GO FOR ME!

It is called R~E~S~P~E~C~T for our fallen men!

The casino in Gettysburg will, of many things destroy our family-friendly atmosphere. It will also be a problem to neighboring communities because if a gambler gets too rowdy, there could be break-ins. Finally, Gettysburg is still a major tourist attraction WITHOUT a casino.

Why is it necessary to build a casino so close to hallowed ground, so close to a battlefield where so many died, so close to a field where the destiny of this nation was decided?

It doesn't matter if the battle took place 147 years ago; the passage of time does NOT make this ground any less sacred.

Building a casino so close to hallowed ground is a sacrilege; surely there are more appropriate places available for the casino than close to the battlefield? If this project is allowed to continue, then, as a nation, we are another step closer to losing our values. If this project is allowed to continue, then what is to stop someone from building a floating pleasure palace over the hulk of USS ARIZONA, or a Burger King inside the Alamo Chapel?

I say NO to the casino; put it SOMEPLACE ELSE!

Building a casino on Gettysburg is like building a parking lot on Arlington Cemetery. It's hallowed ground paid for by the blood of Americans from ALL parts of the country. The idea of ignoring voices from outside of Adams County is sheer stupidity! Did ONLY Adams county residents FIGHT at Gettysburg? NO! We ALL fought at Gettysburg! Shall we ignore those dead from outside of Adams County? Ask the residents how many of thousands of dead they had to bury in the battle's aftermath that WASN'T from Adams County.

It's time to put this issue to bed once and for all: the people of USA do NOT want a casino at this or any other battleground. Perhaps if the casino advocates knew of any of their ancestors that fought in the Civil War; they wouldn't dream of violating the sanctity of any battleground for which said ancestor fought, bled, and died upon. For all battlefields, in my opinion, are like cemeteries.

I have heard that the spokesman for the proposed casino has stated that they `have no concern whatsoever for anybody outside of Adams County who may oppose this project.` Well, the PGCB should care! Gettysburg National Military Park is a NATIONAL heritage that would be severely desecrated by the proposed casino development. I am strongly opposed!

Simply, get a grip on the reality here. This is the `mecca` of Civil War battlefields, to be honored and revered, not sullied by yet ANOTHER casino with its endless, blatant show of greed and irreverence. Do you people have ANY conscience, or are you strictly blind to what`s right and shrug off what`s wrong?? Please, pack your bags and GET OUT OF TOWN, and build your little `funhouse` somewhere far away.

Everyone I speak to about this in Michigan is blown away by the gall that anyone would even CONSIDER this, let alone try AGAIN. We hope that respect, morals, fortitude and patriotism will be demonstrated in a country whose citizens are continually beaten down for having any sense of pride. Greed is rampant in this country-and is demonstrated again with this repulsive idea for profit. Maybe these fellows can still get in on that mosque deal in NYC...STAND UP AMERICA

Building a casino on or near the National Military Park is both visually and morally inappropriate. I am sure there are other viable locations for the casino to be built. As an historian, author and a patriotic American, I find it offensive that some have so little regard for the sacrifices of those who served this country. Build your casino, but build it somewhere else, where it does not infringe upon the battlefield.

The casino may be local to you, but Gettysburg is of national importance and it therefore concerns me and every other citizen of this country.

Gettysburg is no place for a casino. It is historical, hallowed ground. Casinos can be placed anywhere; it does not have to shadow over a battleground where thousands of our servicemen died - on both sides.

150 years passing does not make it any less important to the country.

Take your casino elsewhere.

Let me paraphrase:

The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it will never forget what YOU did here.

This is just wrong.

No casino at Gettysburg.

I feel a casino would ruin the character and the community of Gettysburg. I am extremely opposed to the license being given to the Mason-Dixon Resorts. Living and working in Adams county and Gettysburg , the impact of gambling and the vices that accompany a casino would blight the land. It is horrible we have the lottery in PA. A casino will not only ruins lives, but businesses in our community. Please do not allow this to happen to our county.

We live and work in Adams County and frequently host visitors and travelers at our home. This year we've brought 18 families or friends through Gettysburg PA; most have toured the battlefield.

Each has expressed their concerns about the negative impact of a slot-machine, table games facility on the family-friendly tourist environment. They recognize and appreciate visiting a community that values and honors high moral standards of behavior.

Several have expressed repulsion at the greed of the individuals, businesses, and now the two county commissioners who hope to benefit from the moral weakness of others.

Gambling in any form profits only those who organize the swindling games, not the individuals and not the community where it is located. The individuals who `play` lose - even if they `win` some dollars. The loss of moral strength affects each family member, as well as the individual gamer.

We strongly oppose any kind of a gaming facility in Adams County - not only because friends have said they would choose another NPS to visit, but because it will give a negative image impact to our county and because it is based on a morally wrong attitude.

Gettysburg and the surrounding area have been honored as a sacred place in the history of our country. And so it will always be. While I am not opposed to gambling, and indeed there may be studies to show how gambling facilities improve an economy, Any proximity of gambling to the hallowed grounds of the battlefield are an insult to this nation and to the men, on both sides, who fought and died there. I would compare it to building a mosque near the Twin Towers site. While it may be legal, it is not appropriate. I urge this Board to consider the location and deny this request. There are many cities and localities that could benefit from a gambling facility. But this location is not appropriate.

Name: **Eric Murray** State: **pa** County: **allegheny** ID: **788** RegID: **973**

Gettysburg area would be a terrible location for a casino just ½ mile or even 10 miles. It is an insult to those that died at the Battle and considering that the Pittsburgh Casino did not bring 1/2 the money that was hoped, but that city can handle the extra traffic.

I strongly oppose the placing of gambling facilities near the Gettysburg Battlefield. It would be a desecration of a location of vital significance to this country`s history

I would like to express my continued opposition to proposed casino near the Gettysburg National Military Park. It was 5 years ago, we were here expressing our feelings and nothing changed, if anything my resolve this time around is stronger than ever to defeat this very insensitive idea. Its really a shame that there are people out there who want to financially benefit from the Gettysburg name without any respect for what happened there and the massive sacrifice of Americans who helped shape our great country into what it is today. Its not just Pennsylvanians who care about this - its all of us Americans who want to see this battlefield kept pristine for future generations to learn from, reflect and enjoy. I urge the PGCB to do the right thing once again and vote `no` to granting a license to Mason-Dixon Resorts.

A casino at Gettysburg is like a mosque at Ground Zero. Lincoln will weep.

A casino at Gettysburg is like a mosque at Ground Zero. Lincoln will weep.

Name: **kenneth e. krause** State: **fl** County: **polk** ID: **794** RegID: **981**

A casino at Gettysburg is like a mosque at Ground Zero. Lincoln will weep.

Please do not approve this location for a casino. There`s already enough crass consumerism near to the battlefield.

The proposed location for the construction of a casino is much too close to the Gettysburg National Park. I would ask that a different location, one that would not impact this historical ground be selected for this facility. The casino in any way associated with the name or location of Gettysburg must be avoided, for it would `cheapen` the sacrifices of all who fought and died there.

Thank you for your consideration, please do the right thing.

There is nothing wrong, in my opinion, with casinos. I enjoy going to them, in other parts of Pennsylvania and elsewhere. Having said this, I believe a casino in Gettysburg would not only be an insult to the thousands of men who fought and died there, it would also have a negative effect upon tourism, and might even lead to congestion and damage to the battlefield itself, by people who came to the area merely to gamble and nothing else.

I visit Gettysburg roughly once a month, and having been doing so for years. Please do not despoil this sacred site with a casino.

Dear Sir/Madam,

As a frequent visitor to the sacred Gettysburg battlefield and avid student of US military history, I am at a loss to comprehend even the suggestion of a gambling casino in the vicinity of this historically significant area. While I realize that it is impossible and impractical to stop the spread of modern development, surely the lure of tax revenue to local municipal governments should not be a reason to desecrate the surrounding landscape with more unsightly buildings, unmanageable traffic and individuals who have no interest in the preservation of this sacred land. Please stop the controversy regarding this casino once and for all so our grandchildren can feel, as I did many years ago, the true battlefield experience.

Most respectfully yours,
Robert Armbrecht

Please consider another location for the proposed casino. Locating this facility near the Gettysburg National Park would `cheapen` the sacrifices that were made there. The responsibility and decisions made by your boards, because of your location, ranges farther and affects more than just your township and county, they are national in scope. Please do the right thing and not approve a casino in the proposed location. Thank you for your consideration.

Please consider relocating the construction site for the proposed casino. Its location near the Gettysburg National Park would `cheapen` the sacrifices that were made there. Your decision goes beyond your township and county, it is one that affects the whole country. Please vote not to approve the casino in this location. Thank you for your consideration.

Name: **Jeff Wieand** State: **MA** County: **Middlesex** ID: **804** RegID: **990**

I was born in Harrisburg, PA and I visit the area frequently. The idea of a casino at Gettysburg is an outrage. I will never visit this casino and will urge everyone I know to boycott it.

Name: **Jeff Wieand** State: **MA** County: **Middlesex** ID: **805** RegID: **990**

I was born in Harrisburg, PA and visit the area frequently. The idea of a gambling casino at Gettysburg is an outrage. If this casino is built, I will never go to there and will urge everyone I know to boycott it.

Name: **Jeff Wieand** State: **MA** County: **Middlesex** ID: **806** RegID: **990**

I was born in Harrisburg, PA and visit the area frequently. The idea of a gambling casino at Gettysburg is an outrage. If this casino is built, I will never go to there and will urge everyone I know to boycott it.

The Gettysburg area is hallowed ground; it in way mixes with gambling. It would be a NATIONAL TRAGEDY to put a gambling facility in Adams County near Gettysburg National Park. Please vote NO on this application for us , our forefathers and our descendants. I stongly oppose it.

Name: **Michael H. Davis** State: **Tn** County: **Coffee** ID: **809** RegID: **992**

I feel this is in very poor taste, the proposed casino, to allow this to be built so close to the battlefield.

I bring my grandsons to Gettysburg each year to teach them the history and tragedy of that time for our country and not have the experience ruined by blatant commercialism and the despoiling of that historical place for study and appreciation of sacrifice. We walk the battlefields where I try to recount those awful three days and do not want that experience to be overwhelmed by the gambling and alcohol problems casinos create wherever they are located. This hallowed ground is a treasure that must be preserved in its purest sense possible for all posterity.

Due to the significance of this area to our nation`s history, we should not be building a casino near this hallowed ground. When I travel to Gettysburg, the last thing I would want to do is gamble. Vote `no` on allowing a casino to be built here. If they want to build it build it closer to the Maryland border.

I oppose the Mason-Dixion Resorts slots facility based on the following reason.

America gives everyone an opportunity and right to develop a business according to local laws and zoning. The one thing you hope that people would possess would be compassion and respect for the sacrifices our ancestors made.

Just like the furvor brought about by the proposed building of a Mosque near the Trade Centers, building a slot parlor near a this hollowed battle ground should be just as distasteful.

In America we may have the right to build and develop private property but we should also have the common sense and conscience not to infringe on, destroy, or disrespect our Historic sites.

I am a frequent visitor to Gettysburg. I love coming for the historic sites, battlefield, and beautiful natural surroundings. It's not worth spoiling that to build some unsightly casino buildings for just a few low paying casino service jobs. The real money to be made off of this will not benefit Gettysburg. Don't ruin the historic and natural setting of Gettysburg with unsightly casinos and all the tawdriness it brings.

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My fore father`s fought to unite this country in gettysburg. Now you want to disgrace them by building a casino. That is like slapping them in the face for the sacrfaces they made. This ground is hollow ground , where there could still be remains of those who fought there. Build in another county not GETTYSBURG.

I adamantly oppose using sacred battlefield grounds and their immediate confines for the benefit of establishing a gaming industry that will create traffic issues, cheapen the area by the establishment of tawdry enterprises and desecrate the land which much blood was spilled over to make our nation the great nation that it is today.

Gettysburg and its surroundings are a National Treasure which should be preserved for eternity. Our family has had the privilege to visit Gettysburg on numerous occasions and to soak up the sacred ground. My favorite monument is the Pennsylvania Monument which exemplifies the hearts and souls of the courageous men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for preservation of the union. We request that you make a sacrifice for preservation which pales in comparison to their struggles.

Respectfully,

Peter J. Johnson

Name: **Jim Duerr** State: **MD** County: **Carroll** ID: **823** RegID: **998**

While I support the need for a casino, I believe an better location would be along RT 15, providing easier access to all, as well as preserving the integrity and the solemnity of the Gettysburg battlefield.

I visit Gettysburg 4-6 times per year to walk the hallowed grounds, visit battle sites and study the battle that took place there. I find it offensive that this sacred area should be considered as a site for a casino. It is very pastoral and peaceful and as far as practicable should be left that way so future generations can reflect on what happened here without the intrusion a casino would bring on this land. Please do not allow this to happen.

As a former resident and native son of the State Of Pennsylvania I am totally opposed to allowing this slots parlor to exist within 20 miles of the Gettysburg. This is indeed hallowed ground and to allow this type of venture in Adams County would be a sacrilege. I served 26 years in the US Army including combat in Viet Nam. I understand what these brave soldiers experienced in this horrendous battle. Please do not dishonorthose who fought and died here. People do not go to Gettysburg to play the slots.

I have extensive experience in the advertising/marketing field. One particular area in which I've done work is branding. One of the most important aspects of that is understanding the end user's perception of your brand. In the case of Gettysburg and the town's surrounding battlefield, it's more than about a brand. It's about our country's history and our heritage. It's an image created by the turmoil and blood of one of our country's most difficult periods. Putting a casino in the vicinity of Gettysburg is so inappropriate to that `brand` or image I have trouble finding the right words to express my outrage. Let me just say it's totally wrong. Allowing legalized gambling this close to Gettysburg will totally compromise the public's perception of the area as sacred ground. I read recently that a pro-casino spokesperson stated he wasn't interested in the opinions of anyone who lived outside the county. If that's not enough evidence of the stupidity of this venture I don't know what is. Please, for our sake and the sake of future generations, don't let them build this casino.

I am highly opposed to utilizing the sacred area anywhere on or near the grounds of Gettysburg where thousands of our soldiers died for any type of gambling facility. Creating that on or near the battlefield grounds makes all of their sacrifices trival, and is demeaning to their memory. Just because it was a war that was not within your lifetime, does not make it any less important to remember and to protect. To bring in a gambling casino would be a detriment to the Gettysburg significance in our American history. It would also encourage more unnecessary sprawl on the ground that should be kept for generations to remember it properly and respectfully. As they say, `What we don`t remember, we are doomed to repeat.`

I work at Gettysburg as a Licensed Battlefield Tour Guide. I have given tours to over 4,000 people. My customers are almost unanimous in opposing construction of a casino so close to the battlefield. Rather than bring more income to the area, a casino is likely to discourage out-of-state visitors from visiting Gettysburg. Within a few years, every state will have casino gambling, and the lure of a casino at Gettysburg will fade. The attraction of the battlefield will last for centuries. From a pure economic viewpoint, the building of a casino is senseless if viewed over the course of the next decade. The Gaming Control Board should think long-term in making this decision. In the long term, a casino will do more harm than good.

Please don't ruin one of the most historic towns and national parks (Gettysburg) by putting in a casino. PA has enough of those already. We shouldn't place a gambling hall on the grounds on which so many died for this country. Blasphomy!

Although not a resident of the area and not a fan of outside intervention normally I nevertheless must oppose placing a casino so close to Gettysburg, the most important Civil war site in the U.S. Your decisions have an impact on our country beyond your immediate vicinity. Please choose another site for the casino. I appreciate that you put a lot of effort into choosing this location but urge you to step back and look at the big picture. Thank you.

I am a teacher of U.S. and American Civil War history. As a college student back in the early 1970`s I paid my first visit to Gettysburg, and immediately fell in love with it. I have now returned over 30 times to visit the park and the various battle-related facilities, and I still haven`t seen all that there is of worth to see and I learn something new about the story of Gettysburg literally everytime I visit here.

This is a sacred place. Gettysburg is like a vast outdoor cathedral, a place of great honor and great sacrifice, one where 51,000 souls spilled their blood to fight for that cause which they all so nobily believed in. There is literally nowhere else on American soil that can tell the story of what happened during some of the most climatic events that have happened in Our Nation`s 234 years of life, in the way this hallowed ground can.

The greatest fight ever in the known history of the American continent took place here; the end for great commanders and the beginnings for new ones, happened here. The blood of true heroes soaks the ground here. And, to top it all off, perhaps the greatest speech in all of Our Nation`s History, was given here.

I most recently walked the ground of the battlefield this past July. As I stepped over the rocks that make up the Bloody Angle at the climax of Pickett`s Charge, I cried. I shed those tears in honor of our brave brothers, of both sides, who were willing to give their lives to protect the interests of the America they knew. Those of us who follow may not be asked to give their blood, but I am willing to do everything in my humble power to protect that which those men died for.

To put a place dedicated to purely financial profit such as a gambling facility on such sacred soil is a pure sacrilege. This is as bad a building a mosque on the remains of Ground Zero in New York City; why there may be nothing about it that is illegal, the ethics of doing so is an incredibly insulting slap-in-the-face to those who died here so heroically, and to do it is to defile their memory.

Must we throw away everything of value, those memories we treasure, the very firmament of American individualism, the desire for a better life, the willingness to fight for a way of life in which many believe was, and still is, the greatest experiment in republican democracy that the world has ever seen, for the sake of making money? No, I say, no, not here, not now, not ever!

I have nothing against a casino, but not on this sacred soil. A casino can be built almost anywhere, but there is just one Gettysburg. The desecration that would take place of a truly unique American shrine would be irreversable. I am firmly of the opinion that the owners of this operation care little for that which makes this place holy, or they would not be attempting to desecrate it in their attempts to take advantage of those who come here to honor those who lived, and who died, and made Gettysburg, the uniquely American place of honor that it is. Listen with your hearts, not your pocketbooks, and do not allow this sacred ground, to be forever desecrated, by the pursuit of profit.

Thank you.

Daniel F. Korn
Author/Teacher/Reenactor

Name: **Pat Meiners** State: **IA** County: **Polk** ID: **834** RegID: **1015**

Like Pres. Lincoln said - `our forefathers brought forth upon this continent a new NATION.` Those who died fought to maintain the nation, not just one county. It is a national issue.

Name: **Pat Meiners** State: **IA** County: **Polk** ID: **835** RegID: **1015**

Those who died gave the utmost for the nation. This is a national issue and a national shrine. Those who know about it generally oppose it. Besides, the casinos here in Iowa haven't helped.

A casino next to the Gettysburg Battlefield is absurd. It truly would be like putting one next door to Arlington National Cemetery or next to Normandy Beach. Please repeat the decision the PA. Gaming Commission gave several years back and again REJECT a proposed casino near this sacred land. Gettysburg is a National Treasure for all of us in this country and the very idea of a casino on its doorstep tarnishes and cheapens that most hallowed ground. Please do the right thing.

Thank You,
Rebecca L. Sterbank

Name: **Anne R. Healy**

State: **TX**

County: **Collin**

ID: **839**

RegID: **1016**

I am emphatically opposed to commercialization of any kind in the vicinity of Gettysburg Battleground National Park. Gambling casinos are especially egregious to such a hallowed area. It is my fervant hope and prayer you will not allow such to occure.

Name: **Anne R. Healy** State: **TX** County: **Collin** ID: **840** RegID: **1016**

I am opposed to the existance of any commercialization situated near Gettysburg National Park. The establishment of a gambling casino is especially egregious and it is my hope and prayer you will not allow such to take place. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Name: **Anne R. Healy**

State: **TX**

County: **Collin**

ID: **841**

RegID: **1016**

I am totally opposed to the establishment of any commercial property near Gettysburg National Park. The establishing of a casino in the vicinity of such hallowed ground is especially egregious. I hope you will not permit such an occurrence. Thank you for your consideration.

Please consider the National treasure of GETTYSBURG.

THIS IS HALLOWED GROUND AND THE TURNING POINT IN OUR NATION'S GREATEST STRUGGLE. DON'T

CHEAPEN THE APPROACHES WITH TWADRY CASINOS

BARS, CONVENIENCE STORES ALL TO FOLLOW A CASINO.

GOOD JUDGEMENT WILL TELL YOU THAT THERE ARE AMPLE LAND AVAILIBILITIES FOR DEVELOPEMENT WITHOUT FOWLING FOREEVER THE APROACHES TO THE BATTLEFIELD.

THE LONG TERM PROTECTION OF THIS SACRED GROUND DESERVES OUR DEDICATED EFFORT.

Name: **ROBERT R. HARPER** State: **TX** County: **DALLAS** ID: **844** RegID: **1017**

I OPPOSE THE CASINO ! DON`T FOWL UP THE APPROACHES TO THIS NATIONAL TREASURE.

Name: **ROBERT R. HARPER** State: **TX** County: **DALLAS** ID: **845** RegID: **1017**

I OPPOSE THE CASINO. DON'T RUIN THE APPROACHES TO A NATIONAL TREASURE SUCH AS THE AHLLOWED GROUNG OF GETTYSBURG.

Name: **Michael J. Peters** State: **WI** County: **Dane** ID: **846** RegID: **1018**

Please don't allow gambling on the sacred ground of Gettysburg National Battlefield. It is a national treasure not a place for entertainment. thank you.

I would like to voice my opposition to the proposed casino in Gettysburg. My wife and I stay at a bed and breakfast in Gettysburg every year and we consider Gettysburg hallowed ground and a spiritual place. To construct a casino anywhere near Gettysburg would be sacrilege and a desecration to the memory of those gallant men who fought there. Certainly there must be a more suitable location for a casino that will not taint this historic site. I beg you to oppose any proposed casino in Gettysburg now or in the future and preserve Gettysburg for the American people and our posterity!

After rightly rejecting a casino near Gettysburg it totally boggles my mind that a second request is even being considered. Gettysburg is America. What happened there, and the many Americans from both the North and the South who fought and died, or had their lives changed forever, should without a doubt indicate how important Gettysburg is to every American. There are so many other places within the state that would be better suited for a casino. Greed for money is no reason or excuse to allow anything negative for Gettysburg. For over 145 years people have worked to protect and improve the battlefield. I urge you to **REJECT** any request to build a casino anywhere near the battlefield. Not only again, for the second time, but for any future requests. **PLEASE - PROTECT GETTYSBURG NO CASINO!**

Name: **JAMES D. NIERMAN** State: **IL** County: **USA** ID: **851** RegID: **1020**

Please PROTECT Gettysburg and the area around the battlefield. It means so much to America. NO CASINO, NOW AND FOREVER!

My great-great grandfather fought at the battle of Gettysburg. Thousands of men died or were maimed there. There are groups that visit there each year, such as the Boy Scouts and other groups which include young children. They should not be subject to the site of a gambling casino just 1/2 mile from the battlefield. They need to see that we adults recognize and hallow the place where so many were engaged in fight that would turn the tide of the war; a battle that was fought to reunite our nation. Please do not build a gambling casino on this sacred site.

Gettysburg is America. It is everyone`s obligation to improve and protect the battlefield where so many Americans gave their lives.

NO CASINO NOW AND FOREVER!

As a teacher and grandparent I can not see a casino as wholesome to the atmosphere that presently exists.

I took my grandson to Gettysburg this past summer and it provided depth and breadth to the written word he had read in his textbooks and outside reading.

The park should be expanding to encompass more of the historical sites. Development in those areas will hem in the park.

My great-great grandfather fought at the Battle of Gettysburg. Thousands were killed or maimed there. There are groups who visit there each year such as the Boy Scouts, and other groups with young children who should not be subjected to the sight of a gambling casino when they go there. They should see a place where adults hallow the ground where these men fought and died. Please do not build a gambling casino on this sacred ground.

No to the casino.

A casino and the related development will detract from the atmosphere that Gettysburg needs to project its history in a manner that does not cheapen it.

No to the casino.

As a history teacher I have been to numerous historical sites and the commercial development around them has detracted from their significance.

My great-great grandfather fought at the Battle of Gettysburg. Thousands were killed or maimed there in order to re-unite a nation that was at war with itself. Many groups visit there each year, including Boy Scouts and other groups with young children who should not be subject to the sight of a gambling casino and the `sideshow` that it brings just 1/2 mile from the battlefield; they should see how adults recognize the blood sacrifice that was made there. They should see how we hallow this ground; not see how we can make a buck off it. Please do not build a gambling casino at Gettysburg.

Dear Control Board Members,

I freely admit that I am not a Pennsylvania resident and haven't been since shortly after being born in Philadelphia many years ago, however, I am a citizen of the the United States and feel that a part of Gettysburg and Adams County belongs to all Americans. The Gettysburg battlefield represents to me a part of my heritage from those who struggled there to preserve freedom for all future Americans.

The idea of using the historic and sacred setting of the Gettysburg area for commercial exploitation as a gaming casino goes against my sense of what is right and appropriate and I would hope it offends your senses too. For the current citizens of all the United States and for those in future years, I urge you to deny the request for establishment of a gambling resort in Adams County.

Thank you for your consideration,

Robert G. Grosse
San Luis Obispo, California

Name: **Stephanie Wincik** State: **PA** County: **PA** ID: **862** RegID: **1025**

I strenuously object to the proposed casino near Gettysburg. As far as I am concerned, the land in and around Gettysburg is hallowed ground and must be treated with the utmost respect.

As the grand-nephew of Pvt. Leonard W. Howard, Co. B, Fifth N.H. Volunteers, who fought at Gettysburg, I strongly object to the plans for a casino using the Gettysburg name and located in Gettysburg or near the battlefield. Anything such as this will debase the Gettysburg experience for future visitors and lessen the value of this pre-eminent national historical site.

Why does this remind me so much of the mosque with no name and place in Manhattan New York, whereby recent memories and raw sensibilities are either ignored or discarded. Although death and following glory comes in all shapes and sizes throughout one`s history or one`s country, it all remains the same. A country`s history needs to be morally protected beyond any courtroom as just sheer decency of mankind. These are truly not legal arguments and all must step back and ponder. A lessor tribute becomes unworthy of, for or by the people.

Name: **John T. Cashman** State: **ME** County: **York** ID: **866** RegID: **1028**

I sincerely hope you will act to prevent the creation of a gambling facility so close to the Gettysburg battlefield. Gettysburg is such a unique, historic, and beautiful place it deserves the respect of all Americans. There is plenty of room elsewhere for a gambling casino - but there is only one Gettysburg.

Name: **William I. Brodt** State: **FL** County: **Collier** ID: **867** RegID: **1033**

Please do not take any action that would detract from the memory of the sacrifices made at this great battlefield.

The nation will long remember if you take any action which denigrates the sacred ground that is the Gettysburg battlefield.

Name: **Paul Groff** State: **CA** County: **Los Angeles** ID: **869** RegID: **1032**

A casino would be a distraction to this important of this site and what it stands for to American.

I do not believe that anything is more disrespectful than to put gambling on or near this hollowed ground.

Name: **William I. Brodt** State: **FL** County: **Collier** ID: **870** RegID: **1033**

Don` t believe that this facility will not negatively affect the aura of this sacred ground.

I believe a casino will be a distraction to this important site to Americans

I believe nothing could bring more disrespect than to put gambling on this hollowed ground.

I believe a casino will be a distraction to this important site to Americans

I believe nothing could bring more disrespect than to put gambling on this hollowed ground.

When one visits Gettysburg for the first time and asks, `where is the battlefield?' the answer is inevitably, `you're standing on it right now.` The hallowed ground of Gettysburg is not just restricted to those areas designated as `the battlefield`, but rather the entire town, its streets, parks, buildings, alleyways, farms, barns, bridges, streams, and the surrounding areas in and around Gettysburg. Who are we to desecrate this sacred place where so many fought and died that their country might live with the likes of a slots facility which will only cheapen and diminish the sacrifice made by the brave souls who fought and died there. Is nothing sacred in this day and age? The national news reported today that a Civil War POW camp was just discovered in Georgia. How much more Civil War history is yet to be discovered? We will never know if battlefields such as Gettysburg are sold off piece by piece to prospectors who are only interested in making money. Someone asked me recently, `what is it about Gettysburg that you love so much?` My response, `I just love being there...walking around....thinking about what happened there and how significant it was.....thinking about the men who fought and died there and how they felt and how their families felt when they didn't come home. I feel as though I am part of something so much bigger than myself when I am there.` Please deny the request to build a slots facility near Gettysburg. Leave it as it is so that future generations have the chance to go there and grow to love it as I, and so many others do.

Considering the considerable tourist revenue generated for Adams County due to the Gettysburg Battlefield, there is no need for a casino. Casino revenue is needed in many other parts of the state, however. Please do not allow such a large commercial venture so close to the National Battlefield Park. Even nearby York or Lancaster would be a more suitable location. I conduct a field trip for young students to Gettysburg every year. Seeing a casino that close would ruin a big part of the experience. As a 26 year veteran of the U. S. Navy, I consider a casino an insult to the Civil War veterans, known and unknown, who never got the chance to return to their homes, some of whom still remain undiscovered beneath the fields of Gettysburg.

Name: **Jim Morgan** State: **KS** County: **Johnson** ID: **882** RegID: **1041**

Please don't cheapen sacred ground with gambling. It is not an honorable thing to do considering the importance of this area to the nation.

This is not appropriate for such a historical place in the making of America.

Name: **Jim Morgan** State: **KS** County: **Johnson** ID: **884** RegID: **1041**

Don` t detract what was said and done here so many years ago by allowing such an activity as gambling.

Please do not allow a casion to be built anywhere near the sacred ground surrounding Gettysburg. My great-great uncle was severely wounded on 2 July 1863 yet he spent the years after the war attempting to re-unify the Country in spirit and in law. As Mayor of Atlanta, he traveled to Gettysburg to meet with Union veterans to promote goodwill. Please remember these veterans and what both sides sacrificed. Thank you.

I oppose any action to limit the Gettysburg Battlefield in any way. We need to remember this battle in its entirety and keep remembering it or we will be forced to relive it. My great great grandfather fought there and spilt his blood doing what he thought was the right thing to do. We as their descendents cannot forget their action.

The battle of Gettysburg does not need to be repeated.

We as Americans must not allow anyone to destroy any part of the battlefield at Gettysburg.

08/17/2010

Dear Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board,

I'm writing as a concerned citizen of both the United States and Pennsylvania regarding recent discussions of developing casino near Gettysburg National Military Park. I want to express my absolute opposition to any plans of developing a casino in or around Gettysburg, or awarding any gambling licenses to parties who wish to build a casino in the Gettysburg area.

I hope you are already aware of the historical significance of the Gettysburg Battlefield and its importance to the American people as a National treasure. The Battle of Gettysburg was the largest of the Civil War and it was the major turning point for the Union in defeating the Confederates, thus preserving our Nation, and freeing millions of enslaved Americans. A casino a Gettysburg would be just plain wrong.

The property proposed for the casino is a mere ½ mile from the National Park. As mentioned by the Civil War Preservation Trust, a casino at this location most certainly “generate tawdry and inconsistent sprawl along the historic Emmitsburg Road”, destroying the historical integrity and view-shed of the park, and would “ultimately cheapen the sacrifices of those who fought and died there”. Gettysburg is absolutely no place for a casino.

Gettysburg as a whole is known for its historic battlefield of the Civil War and also the 19th Century structures and character of the community. My parents took me to Gettysburg on numerous occasions as a child, and decades later, I still continue to visit the town and battlefield on a frequent basis. Gettysburg played an influential role in beginning my own lifelong interest in American History. I can personally attest to how influential such historical sites can be to our young people.

Gettysburg is the home of a National Treasure. It is no secret that historical sites in the area, including the battlefield and the town, have also contributed to the tourism economy of the region. Therefore, we see a convergence of mutual interests in which preserving historical sites such as the Gettysburg Battlefield protects vital local, state, and National cultural assets, while producing much needed economic benefits. A casino at Gettysburg would drive away historical tourists, and prevent many folks, like myself, from returning to the area and spending tourism dollars.

We live in turbulent times, when many of our modern-day troops are deployed around the globe, including violent assignments such as Iraq and Afghanistan. These brave men and women have volunteered to protect our Nation and we should be grateful. Who knows what additional challenges our Nation will face in the coming years? When we preserve important places like Gettysburg, we express our gratitude to those Americans from our Nation's past who served their country. More importantly, it teaches our young people, and future Americans that we appreciate and honor the efforts of those who risk and sacrifice for their Nation. If we do not protect historic sites such as Gettysburg, where thousands of Americans risked and sacrificed their lives, how can we expect future generations of Americans to protect and defend the freedoms and liberties that we all so love? What proof can we pass through the generations that America honors and appreciates the sacrifices of its soldiers? We can start by not allowing a casino to be developed at Gettysburg, the land itself is the most fitting monument that we can maintain in honor of their efforts. Certainly, preservation of the park and its story is a much more fitting tribute than a gambling den and other subsequent commercial “development” that would appear if Mason Dixon Resorts is permitted to establish a casino in the Emmitsburg Road sector of Cumberland Township.

As a concerned U.S. citizen, I feel much saddened when we lose our historical or “hallowed ground” to short-sighted and profit-driven “development” projects. Likewise, the current threat to the Gettysburg Battlefield has gained my attention. Additionally, numerous members of my family served at Gettysburg, some paying the ultimate sacrifice with their life. The family connection makes this issue a little more personal. Regardless, I humbly request that the Gaming Control Board protect the Gettysburg Battlefield’s physical and historical integrity for posterity in honor of the sacrifices of all Americans past, present and future who have served their country.

Sincerely,

Charles L. Sprowls JR.
West Mifflin, PA

I am writing to you with complete sincerity in support of the Mason Dixon Resorts. I was born and raised in Gettysburg and I am totally aware of all it represents but I am also struggling with the economic times. Having lost my job of 27 years in May, I know first-hand what the job market has to offer. Plus living in the borough of Gettysburg is a strain with the continued rise of taxes. So I am asking you to please give the license to Mason-Dixon in hopes of more jobs and improved economy.

Thank you.

Please do not allow a casino to be built in such proximity to such hallowed ground.....certainly, the developers can go elsewhere instead of trying to cash in on the Gettysburg name. The increase of traffic would change the landscape of the area surrounding the park, to its detriment. Thank you.

I would like to urge the Gaming Control Board to deny the application for casino gambling facility adjacent to Gettysburg National Battlefield Park. This is simply not the place for such a facility. This battlefield is a national treasure and would be desecrated. If you want to have a casino, that is fine but do not put it next to this hallowed ground. It must be preserved for future generations of Americans. This would be like putting a casino next to the statue of Liberty or Arlington cemetery. It is simply not right.

Name: **Anthony D. Atwood** State: **FL** County: **Miami-Dade County** ID: **899**
RegID: 1057

It is an appalling travesty to put gambling so close to the hallowed Gettysburg Battlefield.

Terrible idea.

Please do not do it.

Thank you,
Anthony D. Atwood

First, my background. I was born and raised in Philadelphia and only moved out of Pennsylvania to Maryland after college. I now live in North Carolina, but I planned to move back to the Willow Valley retirement community in Lancaster, PA. My parents and their parents and much further back in their lines were all residents of Pennsylvania. One of my great grandfathers, David S. Hunsberger fought at Gettysburg in the 99th PA Volunteers and his name is on the Pennsylvania Monument at Gettysburg. I can remember visiting Gettysburg many times as a child and have been back many times since.

During the Civil War Pennsylvania contributed and sacrificed much to preserve the Union and has always been there to honor those who fought and died at Gettysburg. Please continue to honor all of those who fought at Gettysburg, including those from Pennsylvania, by rejecting the proposal for a resort slots and gambling facility so close to the battlefield.

I am vehemently opposed to putting up a casino in this historic area. This is historic, hallowed ground, and to cheapen and dishonor those who have sacraficed and died here, would be to show that we as Americans have no values. Put the casino someplace else!!

Dear Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board:

I am a 30 year-old writer and Civil War reenactor belonging to the First Minnesota Volunteers living history group based out of historic Fort Snelling in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

In October of 1994 I made my first visit to Gettysburg National Military park. I was only fourteen then and innocently thought the landscape around town would look about the same as it did in 1863, so consumed I was by the story of the battle.

The post-1863 development encircling the preserved fields shocked and disoriented me to no end, especially the shops and eateries catering to tourists as if the town were Aspen or Banff, not a place where some of the Civil War`s most horrific combat took place. I especially was surprised to find land fighting took place on had been lost to development. Including, I later found out, the fields where the left flank of Pickett`s charge had been battered by Union cannon fire from Cemetery Ridge. I had assumed each and every parcel had been saved when the park was created.

However, since then I have read and heartily approved of efforts by the NPS and private groups like the Civil War Preservation Trust to restore and save portions of the hallowed fields of Gettysburg. I am dismayed to no end, however, by the recent proposal by Mason-Dixon Resorts, LP.

I am completely opposed to a casino being built only a half-mile from the battlefield because we already have too much development hemming in the fields, woods, and hills where brave soldiers fought and fell during a battle whose story is so powerful it was the setting of the greatest novel of the Civil War: Micheal Shaara`s The Killer Angels.

How can we turn our backs on such a sacred legacy of valor and pathos in favor of something better suited for the likes of Las Vegas or Atlantic City?

I believe Mason-Dixon Resorts, LP, not only should, but must build their casino somewhere else in Adams county, if not somewhere else entirely in Pennsylvania, and let Gettysburg be what it truly is: a historic site and battlefield park.

Dear Sirs: I would like to express my extreme displeasure at the prospect of the Gettysburg casino project. Our history is not for sale. If I want to go to gamble I'll go to Las Vegas. Gettysburg is hallowed ground, and in a town that has already been over built, a tawdry casino, erected a stones throw from where so many men died, would be a slap in the face to their memory. What would a casino bring except more wealth to a few individuals businessmen who probably don't need the money anyway. We live in a time when too many are selling their souls for the all mighty dollar. Maybe it's time to get back to doing things just because they're right to do. Gettysburg is immortal, and should stay that way. I urge all members of the gaming board to reject this ill conceived casino project. Please let our history prevail over an all too common greed and arrogance...Thank you for your time...Tim Huebner

I believe you people can find another place to put your casino. This is an absolute disgrace. Of all the places in Pennsylvania you have to put it why there? These civil war battlefields may not mean much to you, but they do to millions of americans who have had family members who have fought and died during this period.

Thank you for letting me say my piece.

Peggy Rosemond

Name: **Peggy A. Rosemond** State: **Tx** County: **Hill** ID: **905** RegID: **1059**

Please, please do not build your casino there and ruin this civil war battlefield.

Peggy Rosemond

Name: **Peggy A. Rosemond** State: **Tx** County: **Hill** ID: **906** RegID: **1059**

Please, please do not build your casino near this wonderful civil war battlefield.

Peggy Rosemond

Folks

I don't want the site that my cousins were killed at to overlook a casino. The site should remain a historic vista, not a gambler's haven.

Thankyou

Gentlemen

Gettysberg is a national historic site. It should not become a gambler`s retreat. I had several cousins at the Battle.

Two of them were killed there. Their names are on Little Round Top.

Please let the vista remain historic, not commercial.

Thank you

Name: **Leroyy Gearl** State: **Pa** County: **Monroe** ID: **911** RegID: **1061**

The many who gave their lives deserve more then a view of a casino. People should come to Gettysburg to remember the fallen Hero`s, not to give their money to a casino.

Thankyou

You people must be forgetting your history! If it had not been for the Civil War you might be living in a totally different country than you are. Too much of the Civil War is being forgotten! It is rarely taught in depth in schools etc. when it should be perhaps more so than any other conflict. But it's people like you that have no respect for the war and those who fought to keep us free that are allowing it to be 'The Forgotten War!' Enough is enough! Go build the casino somewhere far, far away from scared battlefields! Stop and take a look back and always remember those who have given the ultimate sacrifice that you be here! God Bless the U.S.A.!

Name: **James Spradlin** State: **Oh** County: **USA** ID: **916** RegID: **1066**

I whole heartly OPPOSE the casino! You people are only interested in one thing, MONEY! You`ve fogotten the Civil War and those that fought and gave the ultimate sacrifice that this nation was able to carry on

I am a frequent visitor to Gettysburg and a historical enthusiast regarding the Civil War especially the event that took place in Gettysburg. The event that help craft the country we now enjoy.

While I'm not in disfavor of gambling or casinos, I do believe that they have their proper place. However, I strongly believe that Gettysburg is not the proper location. People come to Gettysburg to learn about our history, awe over the massive event that took tens of thousands of lives and offer their respect for those who gave up their lives for which they believed.

Gettysburg doesn't need the added attraction or distraction of gambling to enhance it. If Gettysburg is need of an economic lift, adding flashing lights, noise, and geriatrics dumping their Social Security checks into slot machines isn't going to make it better. Gettysburg needs other commercial enterprise to maintain the quaint and historical appearance. Speaking of historical appearance, the National Park Service is doing much work to restore the battlefield to the way it looked in 1863 so that those of us who have a love for this place and can have a deeper understanding of what transpired here. How can a casino blend with that historical appearance when it's so close to the battlefield?

Opening up Gettysburg to casinos would only serve to ruin the quaintness that so many visitors love. An article I read stated that studies have shown a "substitution effect" on local businesses, casinos actually drawing money away from established restaurants and other social outlets. In Gilpin County, Colorado, 36 percent of its retail business went under after opening its doors to casinos. In New York, one study showed that a gambling expansion would actually cost western New Yorkers more than 1,200 jobs. Sure, 25 percent of American adults plan on visiting a casino this year. But that means that 75 percent do not. And of that 25 percent who do hit the craps table, fewer than half of them plan on going more than once. The tourist industry and especially Gettysburg doesn't need one-hit wonders for visitors. It needs repeat business, something that casinos clearly aren't delivering.

Also, the people who visit Gettysburg, the historians, the civil war enthusiasts, the school children, the families, etc. are spending their disposable income on history-related activities and goods that sustain Gettysburg. I believe that they would not visit Gettysburg for the one-armed bandits, the flashing lights, the cocktail waitresses and all that goes with the casinos. As I stated earlier, I'm not against gambling and casinos, I am against gambling and casinos in Gettysburg.

Name: **James Spradlin** State: **Oh** County: **USA** ID: **918** RegID: **1066**

You people are only interested in one thing, MONEY! How tragic! You`ve fogotten those that gave the ultimate sacrific that this country may carry on!

Name: **James Spradlin** State: **Oh** County: **USA** ID: **919** RegID: **1066**

You are only interested in one thing, MONEY! it`a a shame that you`ve fogotten those that gave the ultimate sacrifice that this country may exist.

I'm originally from Pennsylvania but live in Delaware. I just visited the park. I'm a history teacher. So, I have a natural bias. However, you seem to be just someone who doesn't care about historical preservation. And you don't care what kind of crowd your proposed business will attract. Your only thinking of cashing in on the name and that tourist would visit a battlefield then come and gamble their money away is just crazy. Go to Vegas and build it somewhere in the desert. They have plenty of useless desert out there to build your establishment.

This is out right shameful to even consider building a casino near the historic Gettysburg battlefield. There are plenty of places to build without ruining our historical battlefield and loose our history about why we fought the war. This is disrespectful to those men who died there and to those who fought there. How dare you dishonor them and those of us who stand for what they fought for.

Craig L. Boden

I have natural biases because I'm a history teacher and believe in historical preservation. You seem to care about none of that. Buy cheap desert land in Vegas and go 2,000 miles west.

Typical grimeballs. You care nothing about the historical significance of the land and care more of how your sleezy operation will bring in losers who splurge their work pay check in your establishment. Go 2,000 miles out west and start your place with useless desert land.

This is a disgraceful thing to even consider building a casino near the historic Gettysburg battlefield. This is dishonoring those who died there and those who fought there. It is disrespectful to those of us who stand in their beliefs for which they fought. This is our National history! How dare anyone distort or dishonor it by placing a casino with its gaudy light blinking glitter drawing people like bugs to a headlamp. Most of those who would gamble there would care nothing about the historical significance of the war nor would they honor the historical site. Keep the battlefield sacred.

Craig L. Boden

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Craig L. Boden

You care nothing about the historical significance of what you want to do and all about the all mighty \$\$.
It`s that simple. I`m originally from PA. Don`t use the history of your place to encourage people to lose
their money. If you have any worth as an organization you will move 2,000 miles west to build your
useless place on useless desert land.

My great grandfather fought for the Union and was captured previous to Gettysburg but the sacrifice so accurately noted in the Gettysburg Address sets the tone that this hallowed ground should not be desecrated with crass commercialism. There are many areas a casino can go but not here where the nation was saved, not for casino`s or Walmarts but for we the people. Please leave this spot chosen almost by chance in the war as a quiet reminder of the events that took place here.

I am proud to count my family`s origin in Cumberland County, from which my Greatgrandfather, George Washington Wolfe enlisted for twoseparate terms of service in the Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. He served in the Army of the Potomac and survived the battles of Vienna, Virginia; Antietam, Maryland; and in Virginia Fredericksburg (Marie`s Heights), the Mud March, and Chancellorsville (near US Ford, where his regiment improvised a last opposition to Stonewall Jackson`s flank attack). He later served under Phil Sheridan in the Valley of Virginia. He later emigrated to Kansas, where he homesteaded at Ellsworth and established a numerous family who include many accomplished persons. His youngest brother, Jakob Wolfe, also served as a member of the Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, and was killed at Petersburg, Virginia during the storming of Fort Stedman.

From generation to generation, the family have spelled the name `Woolf`, `Wolff`, `Wolf` and latterly `Wolfe`. The orthography may have altered, but not our attachment to Gettysburg and the lovely land that made this town into a commercial center.

I cannot find any advantage for Gettysburg in the establishment of a commercial gambling enterprise. The clear advantage of all organized games of chance lies with the operator. All participants are certain to lose more than they ever will win. This feeds false hopes and harmful illusions, often among those persons with the least means and the most to lose.

Gettysburg today is honorably represented as the most visible and recognized place in which our lamented Civil War tested the capacity of this nation to survive. Sufficient visitors will continue to come every year into perpetuity, based solely on their wish to tread the ground hallowed by so great and agonizing a test of arms. Those who built Gettysburg, and those who went from it to civilize the face of a newly discovered nation risked all on the frontier, but were never characterized by organizeg games of chance. Nearly 150 years have passed since the destiny of this new nation was tried in this compact and elegant town. Those 150 years of stewardship of the battle site have gone forward in prosperity without any need for commercial gambling. What will be said 150 years from now of our own mettle, and of our regard for our honored ancestors, if in this hour such a degradation of this historic site should be permitted to occur. What amount of dollars will suffice to redeem the honor to be thereby lost?

Why Gettysburg? People that want to gamble do not necessarily want to see a civil war battlefield. I go to the park at least twice a year, I do not gamble. So what does one have to do with the other? Move the casino another 10 miles away and I think everyone involved will be happy.

Name: **doug mogle** State: **fl** County: **us** ID: **933** RegID: **1075**

Please do not allow a casino to blight our precious
national heritage site-- the gettysburg battlefield

I am but one American who believes that sacrifices of those that fought and died at Gettysburg in 1863 is something we need to preserve and from which we need to learn. This hallowed ground is more than a single battlefield amongst thousands of the Civil War, it is THE Battlefield that represents that struggle from both sides that our nation endured for those four long years to millions of citizens in this country. It is the single most recognized place of that horrible war and needs to be preserved so following generation can know and understand what went on not just on the fields but in our country.

The saved land in the bounds of the National Park are what we would consider `hollowed ground` and therefore worthy of being saved. However, it is also the surrounding land that should be preserved and respected, because on these roads men marched for days to meet their ultimate sacrifice for this country. To build a casino right in the environs of this campaign is similar to building a mosque a few blocks from ground zero. I can not believe the proposition is even being considered.

I thought this issue was decided a few years ago when you turned down the original request for the casino. What gives...are the casino proponents allowed to keep bringing their request until they are finally given approval Once built, it will be an eyesore like the tower that was remove just a few years ago.

A casino at Gettysburg, making money from the dead who fought to save our country. Ah, capitalism at its worse!

If you pass this casino request, you might as well urinate on the thousands of graves at the National Cemetery.

As you can readily see by my e-mail address, I love to play craps. However, even an avid craps player like myself realizes that there is a time & place for everything. Just as I feel that a mosque at Ground Zero should be moved to a more appropriate location. The same can be said for a casino to be moved to a better location than the close proximity of Gettysburg. If the casino is moved to a better location I will be sure to gamble there. If not, I will never set foot in that casino. Thank you.

My family has roots in Gettysburg, specifically, a residence known as the Black Horse Tavern. This residence and inn was owned by a Bream during the battle and was used as a field hospital by Confederate troops. Among my 92 year-old uncle`s prized possessions is a chair from that house with saw cuts from the splints sawed on it.

It would be a desecration almost beyond imagination for any commercial enterprise, but particularly a casino, to be built within 20 miles of the battlefield where so many of our great or great-great grandfathers died or were wounded.

Please reconsider allowing a casino to be placed anywhere near this hallowed ground in Gettysburg.

Name: **Bert R. Bream** State: **CA** County: **Orange** ID: **941** RegID: **1079**

Please consider the men, your and my great and great-great grandfathers who fought and died in Gettysburg, and ask yourselves how a casino anywhere near the battlefield could honor their sacrifice.

Please consider the men-your and my great and great-great grandfathers who fought and died in Gettysburg. Then ask yourselves how a casino anywhere close to the Gettysburg battlefield will honor their sacrifice.

Please consider the men-your and my great and great-great grandfathers who fought and died at Gettysburg. Then, please, ask yourselves how a casino anywhere near that battlefield could do anything but desecrate the honor of these men.

No casinos near the Gettysburg battlefield!! Why is this even an issue???

Name: **Harlan P. Wallingford** State: **TN** County: **Robertson** ID: **945** RegID: **1082**

The Gettysburg battlefield is hallowed ground. I can't imagine allowing a casino to stain its meaning and memory.

As a Cumberland Twp. business woman, artist, and 30-year resident, native to the neighboring area, I support the Mason-Dixon Resort with enthusiasm. We need this sort of well-planned and aesthetically pleasing venue, in a retrofitted low-impact location like the Eisenhower Inn complex, both for the jobs and tax relief.

Our county has serious limitations on taxable properties, low-income averages, and an extreme lack of job opportunities. This Casino could provide solutions. It will in no way impact the sovereign National Park, but only enhance tourist options. I have worked downtown, and spoken with many visitors. Most ask about alternatives to the Civil War theme. Local residents travel to out-of-area Casinos for recreation. We need that money to spent here.

Those of us who live here demand the right to work and play in whatever legal ways we chose. Time has moved on after the Civil War, and many of our families were here before that interruption. Why should our county be held back by those who glorify war and dramatize history? While we all have respect for the past, most of us must make a living and would prefer to stay near our roots. We are being driven out by the academics and historical-idealists who project only theories on a struggling town. Gettysburg needs help financially, not with their fantasies.

My many years of experience working in museums, regional historical societies and libraries has shown that there is a heritage of gaming, as well as the racehorses, in this area. There are many traditions of this among soldiers of all eras. So, gaming is part of our history, here, whether admitted or not.

I can see no negatives, only positives about this project - the sociological aspects of unemployment and depression may even be helped by opportunities and charitable projects offered by Penn National management. The plan is a good one. Please give us a chance!

Name: **Harlan P. Wallingford** State: **TN** County: **Robertson** ID: **947** RegID: **1082**

The Gettysburg battlefield is hallowed ground. I can't imagine allowing its meaning and mamory to be stained by a casino.

Name: **Harlan P. Wallingford** State: **TN** County: **Robertson** ID: **948** RegID: **1082**

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The Gettysburg battlefield is hallowed ground. I can't imagine allowing a casino to stain its meaning and memory.

i think they need to find a new location for the casion or not find an area at all. Thats all we need to do is hurt the familys more we need to respect the area and the history of it also

Name: **Deborah J. Smith** State: **IA** County: **Iowa** ID: **955** RegID: **1089**

The county does not own Gettysberg. Gettysberg belongs to the country and the men laid there should be allow to rest in humble peace. While I am certain the revenue is needed, there is an ethical and moral priority that exists here. Shame on those who would defile `this hallowed ground`.

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I believe granting permission for `gaming` near Gettysburg would be a terrible mistake! It may surprise you that both my grandfather and great grandfather fought at Gettysburg. A statue of my great grandfather George Sears Greene is at Culp`s Hill. In my opinion they would be very upset if permission was granted.

Sincerely, Lt. Colonel John Greene USA Ret.

Name: **Lisa Cray** State: **PA** County: **Allegheny** ID: **960** RegID: **1091**

Please do not allow a casino to be licensed in Gettysburg. Consider the long term implications of locating a casino in such close proximity to the battlefield. The damage would be irreversible. Is nothing sacred anymore?

As big ass this country is there can be no good reason to build a casino in this location. The Gettysburg Battle field is one of the most sacret places in the history of this great country ands should not be degraded in this manor. There is no doubt in my mind that the actual battlefield should be expanded as funds become avaiable and this would put a stop to any future expansion.

Thank You

J W Fredlock

I oppose the building of a casino so close to the Gettysburg battlefield.

Please do not let the casino open close to Gettysburg. Although I haven't been there since 1969 I still remember the tranquility of the area and the sense of awe of the historic site. To open a casino, or any other big business, in the immediate area surrounding Gettysburg would ruin the atmosphere for the visitors. I am planning to bring my grandson to PA specifically to see Gettysburg and want him and all other visitors to feel the sense of history that happened there. To have a casino immediately next to this historic site is akin to having a mosque near the Twin Towers site. Please respect all those who fought at Gettysburg and their families and also all of our current servicemen and women who allow us to maintain our freedom. To destroy the tranquility of this area would be a grave dishonor to all who not only fought there but would also ruin the atmosphere for all visitors. Please -- no casino or other distractions in this area.

Please do not ruin the atmosphere of the Gettysburg area with a casino or any other big business in that vicinity. Honor all those who fought there and preserve the tranquility of the area for them and all future visitors.

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Please leave this sacred piece of hallowed ground alone.

Building anything here besides monuments to our hero Confederates is an abomination to these men and to God.

Many of my ancestors from SC fought and died here for their freedom.

If this is in reference to the proposed casino to be located very near the history town of Gettysburg, then I wholeheartedly OPPOSE it.

Why oh why must this casino be located at such a special hallowed historic area? It does not make any sense. Why can't it be located (much) further away? Are we losing all sense of preservation? This cannot happen.

This will not happen.

Please do not replace this hallowed area with eternal meaning for America, with a temporary modern establishment. Thank you.

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Honorable members and public servants,

The placement of a casino within close proximity to the Gettysburg Military Battlefield is entirely inappropriate. As a `heritage tourist,` I visit Gettysburg annually with my young son, and patronize many local businesses (food and accommodations, gift shops, etc.). The character of the area will be ruined with a casino `right over the hill` ... , and frankly I am unlikely to return. (There would be better places for me to instruct my son/spend my money.) There are other locations available in the state that do not threaten the dignity of our dead soldiers, and their hard won effort to save our country. Look somewhere else for a casino location!

Dear Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board,

While unable to attend the August 31 hearing regarding the casino license application for Maxon-Dixon Resort & Casino to place a resort casino in Gettysburg, I would hereby like to submit my written statement opposing the Gettysburg casino for inclusion in the record.

As both a resident of Pennsylvania and someone with great interest in Civil War history, I am saddened to find that a large casino could be placed literally at the entrance to arguably the most pivotal of Civil War battlefields. I urge the Board to consider granting the license to another applicant so that the Gettysburg battlefield continues to be exempted from the ongoing sprawl of development threatening so many other Civil War locations.

The notion of placing a casino near Gettysburg doesn't make any sense from either a logical or financial point of view. Is Mason-Dixon hoping that since Gettysburg is such a large tourist area already that they will have a built-in clientele for the casino? Do they really think that the types of tourists currently visiting Gettysburg, i.e. families, school kids, history buffs, etc. are going to flock to a casino? Other proposed areas in the state such as Nemaquin (already a luxury resort) seem far more likely to attract the clientele and generate the revenue that the state is looking for. There are so many areas in Pennsylvania that could use the economic boost of a casino, and beyond the purely historical arguments, it certainly doesn't seem fair to place it in a location such as Gettysburg which already enjoys an abundance of tourism income.

I am certainly sympathetic to the need to create new jobs and bring additional revenue into Adams County and Pennsylvania in general, especially during these difficult economic times. However, Adams County contains some 522 square miles, of which only approximately 25 square miles are related to the Battle of Gettysburg. Is there not room elsewhere in the County where this casino could be placed other than a half-mile outside the National Park boundary? If the Board chooses to give the resort casino license to Mason-Dixon please at least stipulate that they must build a respectable distance from the battlefield. Areas such as the Wal-Mart shopping plaza on York Road northeast of the town appear to be thriving, are positioned well outside the historic area, and yet are within just a few minutes of easy driving. If the casino `must` go in the Gettysburg area, why not in an area similarly removed from the battlefield?

For myself, the threat of ongoing development, future encroachment on more of the battlefield, and a general change in the very fabric of the historic area is what is at stake in addition to the immediate effects of extra traffic, noise pollution in a reverent area, etc. I humbly ask that the Board consider these long-term impacts on the Gettysburg battlefield when making their decision. Please do not allow this unfortunate chain of events to begin.

Finally, let me conclude by quoting one of the participants of the Battle of Gettysburg. At the 50th anniversary celebration in 1913, Daniel Sickles, the only still-surviving corps commander, was asked why there were no monuments in his honor on the battlefield. He replied, `the whole battlefield is my monument.` The whole battlefield is indeed the only monument not only to Sickles but to God only knows how many soldiers who gave their lives for this country and the liberties we continue to enjoy. Please do not let their memory and their sacrifices be shoved aside for the `almighty dollar`. A casino can be built anywhere, but Gettysburg is a national treasure that cannot be replaced.

I've been to Gettysburg on three occasions in my life (and have stayed at and supported local hotels and restaurants). All three occasions were very spiritual moments; I went once as a child, and was in awe at the majesty and meaning provided by the sacred grounds of Gettysburg. I brought my kids back, and the return visits have, interestingly, had the same effect on them.

Allowing a casino in the area would be grotesque, and I don't think I'd return again with my grandkids.

After visitng the National Mississippi River Muesum in Dubuque Iowa just this past Sunday, I popped in to the Diamond Jo Casino, right next door, to have a look-see and throw away a buck or two. Although gambling on the riverboats was a common occurance back in the 1800`s, this was no nostalgia trip. It was loud, smokey, and full of bored, lost souls ~ no connection, really, to the history of the river. Plus the outside was ugly ugly ugly.

I fear, that the the proposed casino near Gettysburg, one of the most revered and historic sites in the US, would have the same effect, and probably worse. While there is some connection to gambling and Dubuque, there is none what-so-ever with Gettysburg (save for Lee`s gamble with Pickett`s charge). I cannot imagine a more inappropriate place to have a casino then right next to the Gettysburg battlefield! True, it will mean `money` but aren`t there more important things than the almighty dollar? The soldiers who died at Gettysburg made the ultimate sacrifice for what they believed in, I think the developers and local and state governments can make a little sacrifice too and let this one go. Do the right thing here, make the right decision.

Please do not cheapen the great heritage we have in Gettysburg. We visit the battlefield every year and never cease to be amazed at the emotional feelings we have at just being there. My greatgrandfather fought there and it is indeed hallowed ground. Too much commercial projects have been allowed to exist. We join with all others in opposing any casino there. Why do you think they want this. Well we don't. They need to get a life elsewhere where they are wanted.

Gettysburg is the premier civil war battlefield site in the East. Parents bring their families to Gettysburg to expose them to the conditions that existed during the war. A casino is not a family activity. Children cannot go into a casino. What would the children do while the parents are gambling? Would the parents expose their children to the sight of adults who have lost a lot of money and possibly are drinking heavily? No, the parents would seek another battlefield such as Richmond where the atmosphere is more family friendly. Is Gettysburg willing to lose the good will and revenue from thousands of families and reenactors to satisfy the urge of a few to gamble?

There`s no valid logic to build a casino so near a National Battlefield Park.

Name: **Charlie Keith** State: **VA** County: **Fauquier** ID: **1005** RegID: **1134**

Democracy was saved on the hallowed ground in and AROUND Gettysburg, Pennsylvania on July 1-3, 1863. I am sure there are plenty of other sites in Pennsylvania [other than Gettysburg] for a resort/casino.

Name: **Paul Sikoris** State: **PA** County: **Bucks** ID: **1006** RegID: **1135**

aI AM TOTALLY AGAINST A CASINO SO CLOSE TO A SACRED MEMORIAL

Name: **Paul Sikoris** State: **PA** County: **Bucks** ID: **1007** RegID: **1135**

I AM TOTALLY AGAINST A CASINO SO CLOSE TO SACRED GROUND

Name: **Paul Sikoris** State: **PA** County: **Bucks** ID: **1008** RegID: **1135**

I AM TOTALY AGAINST A CASINO SO CLOSE TO SACRED GROUND

Name: **Paul Sikoris** State: **PA** County: **Bucks** ID: **1009** RegID: **1135**

I AM TOTALLY AGAINST A CAINO SO CLOSE TO SACRED GROUND

For me, the question of the Gettysburg Casino is not a question of being for or against gambling in general, but it is a question of how best to maintain an atmosphere of respect and dignity around the Gettysburg Military Park specifically. This was the pivotal battle of the Civil War, the high tide for the Confederacy, and the bloodiest battlefield of the war. As President Lincoln stated in his famous address, `we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract.` My question to the gaming board and the Mason-Dixon Resorts, LP is will a casino built 1/2 mile from this hallowed ground serve to `add or detract` from the consecration of this hallowed land. I oppose the building of a casino in such close proximity to the Gettysburg Military Park. I thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion.

Name: **Gary Frantz** State: **pa** County: **Schuylkill** ID: **1011** RegID: **1137**

Please move(Walmart) to another area. This will impact the values of the fallen service men. Preserve this land for our children and their children to keep it scared.

The Battle of Gettysburg is one of the defining moments in our nation`s history. Those sacred grounds need to be preserved in natural, pristine condition so future generations. I am aghast at the idea of a casino so close to Gettysburg. That would take away from the significance of this special place. Abraham Lincoln said it best: `...the World must never forget what was done at Gettysburg.`. Building a casino there will cause people to forget what happened on this holy ground during three bloody days in July, 1863.

I returned to the Gettysburg National Military Park yesterday after a lengthy hiatus and was so impressed by the recent rehabilitation of the park. The efforts at restoring the area to its appearance at the time of the battle in 1863 have been remarkable.

I am so saddened that the previous defeat of a poorly-conceived plan to place a casino near the park was not enough to keep it off the table again. People who come to the National Military Park do so to pay tribute to those brave men who gave their lives to shape our country into what it is now. We do not come there for the crass purpose of trying to make a few dollars at a gaming table.

Adding a casino to the area of the National Military Park is worse than a bad idea - it is an affront to those men whose blood was spilled at this very site. It is at best an annoyance and at worst, an insult to the citizens of Cumberland Township and to the nation as well, to think that pieces of gold can be gained at these hallowed acres.

I know that there are other sites being proposed as potential gaming enterprise, and I would respectfully request that the commission give the license to a much less controversial place.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Lawrence M Sherman

Name: **Joshua Kirkner** State: **PA** County: **Northumberland** ID: **1016** RegID: **1145**

I feel putting a casino anywhere in the vicinity of such a historic landmark is in very poor taste. Lets show our respect for those who gave their lives, and send a resounding NO to the casino.

Name: **Gary W. Pezzeca**

State: **PA**

County: **Chester**

ID: **1018**

RegID: **1148**

Gettysburg is a National Treasure, don't spoil it with such a cheap project.

Please , please think long and hard about your decision to allow permits for constructing a casino near the Gettysburg Battlefield. As children both my husband and myself visited hallowed ground with our families. It was important for them to share the history of our country with us. He was brought up in upstate New York and I was born in Virginia. It is now important for our own children to visit Civil War sites and we have been taking them to as many as possible. Gettysburg, is one we have on our schedule to visit once again. I cannot even express how concerned I am about placing a Casino in proximity of a national landmark and treasure. Am I to tell my children to take plenty of pictures because it will be ruined and spoiled when it is time for them to bring their families?

Casinos bring in a few dollars but also `unwanted` elements that push away families. I will avoid this area if a Casino is built. My dollars will go to more family oriented sites promoting a natural setting and historical significant areas. Gamblers are not the future of Pennsylvania...building your communities and promoting more family businesses are a better `bet`. Please be responsible and ensure that our future generations can be proud of the decisions you are making today.

Gettsburg is a National Treasure, don't spoil it with a cheap project such as a casino.

Please reconsider building a Casino in the area near the historic Gettysburg Civil War battlefield. I was brought there as a child as was my husband by our families living in different parts of the country. It was important to them to share our American History with us. It is important for us as parents to now share with our own children. It is important for them to see it as close to as it was as possible. This can be done by blocking a Casino from being built in this area. Plus, what does this accomplish? Ruin of your town? Who lives and visits Atlantic City? Just an element that does not ensure any further family visitation. Please, re-think the Casino project and think about your children and grand children, They, too, deserve to experience and view history un-obstructed. Thank you.

I am a mom raising 4 children near the Battle of Chancellorsville. It is a mainly rural area filled with the history of the Civil War. We walk this area learning about the triumphs and defeats of Americans. There school also walks these areas and they are taught Virginia history in an outdoor classroom. This will be experiences they hand down and also bring to their own families. Both my husband and myself were taken to Gettysburg by our families. This was a `living` lesson that we have remembered throughout our lives. It is now time for us to take our children to Gettysburg. I am hoping that this is a trip they too will remember and want to take with their families as they grow older. Please continue keeping Gettysburg a sacred place for future generations to come experience and remember. I ask that you not build a Casino in this vicinity. Thank you.

I walked through the battlefields of Chancellorsville, Va today..in quiet. I talked with my children about the United States battling state against state. About relatives that fought in the war and those that died. About what was won and what was lost. Because it is important.

Gettysburg is very important too. I want to continue teaching my children and letting them see `America`. I want them to honor those that died for our country. They and their children one day will want to experience the same visit to Gettysburg as my husband and I did. This will be ruined by installing a Casino in this area. Please vote no. Thank you.

I believe this would be a disgrace to the men who bravely fought and died at Gettysburg. I would like to take my children back to Gettysburg and not have to explain to them why a casino is within a stones throw of such hallowed ground.

For 3 days in July of 1863, approximately 72,000 men under General Robert E Lee clashed with General George G Meade`s 94,000 strong Army of the Potomac in Gettysburg, PA. By the end of that battle, over 46,000 soldiers were listed as casualties of this, the bloodiest battle of the American Civil War. This ground is sacred...it is hallowed by the blood of all of those soldiers who fought and died for what they believed in. Many of those soldiers are still buried on that ground...no markers to show their names or where they fell, but they ARE there. To propose the erection of a casino on that very ground is to desecrate that most hallowed ground. Would we have any problems clearing ground next to Arlington National Cemetery and place a casino there? I put to this Gaming Control Board that no one would permit that and yet the case before you is of the same magnitude.

This casino is merely trying to cash in on the Gettysburg name. No thought or consideration is being made by these developers to those who fought and died here. The small town of Gettysburg also does not need the additional traffic that would be caused by this project. This casino can NOT be allowed to be built here.

There are arguments that the casino would fix unemployment problems in Adams County. This may well be true, but this placement so close to a national battlefield and cemetery is unnecessary. There are so many places along Route 15 that would be far more suitable...perhaps even more so.

I ask the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board to honor the sacrifice and blood of those soldiers and deny the request for this casino to be built so close to Gettysburg National Military Park.

As a senior citizen, I've spent most of my life studying the Civil War. I have visited many battlefields and spent countless hours walking in the steps of those valiant soldiers who fought and died for their beliefs.

These battlefields are our country's history and heritage and must be preserved for our present and future generations. It is imperative that these `sacred grounds` be saved to reflect as much as possible the way these soldiers saw them. We must also secure a buffered area outside their boundaries to not detract from the solemnity of these grounds.

Gettysburg is a special place in our history where over 50,000 soldiers from both sides fell. Therefore, please do not approve the application for a casino for this town as nothing should be there to detract from the most historical site in our country.

Next year our country will start to observe the 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War. No better tribute or remembrance could be done that to preserve the site of this great battle and deny this application. Pennsylvania is a large and wonderful state and a more suitable site should be found elsewhere.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my views. Now do what is the right action and preserve this battlefield.

Name: **Trish Lapp** State: **PA** County: **Perry** ID: **1037** RegID: **1163**

I oppose the use of a casino in the area of Gettysburg. That is hallowed ground and to put a casino in - that`s just absurd. Find another area to put your gambling resort.

Name: **Trish Lapp** State: **PA** County: **Perry** ID: **1038** RegID: **1163**

Putting a casino resort in the Gettysburg area is absurd. Find another area in PA to for people to gamble.

Name: **Trish Lapp** State: **PA** County: **Perry** ID: **1039** RegID: **1163**

Putting a casino in the Gettysburg area is absurd. Find another area in the state for people to gamble. We're talking hallowed ground here, people!

Name: **Trish Lapp** State: **PA** County: **Perry** ID: **1040** RegID: **1163**

A casino in Gettysburg where this is hallowed ground? That`s absurd! Find another area in PA for people to gamble.

As a former 15 year police officer, I am familiar with the types of criminal activity that a casino fosters. Of course, many law abiding decent people go to casinos to gamble, however, it is a fact that drug users, prostitutes, gang members, and petty thieves also frequent casinos to engage in their criminal activity. If a casino is built in Gettysburg, it WILL bring more crime with it. Of all places in America to increase crime, it would be a moral sin to do so at such hallowed ground as Gettysburg. I'd like to bring my son to Gettysburg some day, and I'd like to not worry about meth users, prostitutes, thieves, and gangsters jeopardizing our safety. Thank you

Honorable Members of the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board.

Casinos can be located anywhere, but, to denigrate the memory of those thousands of Americans whose blood stained the ground at Gettysburg by allowing an establishment whose purpose is clearly intended to generate income for the owners would, in my opinion, be the ultimate travesty.

James E. Stallings, Sr.

Author/Historian

Macon, Georgia

A Casino near a national historical site, really?? I freq take my son to historical sites so that he will have an appreciation for our history and the sacrifices made. What`s next a resort in Arlington? Sorry, no money spent by me in your beautiful countryside if a casino is built.

Name: **Geno V.. Marola** State: **pa** County: **USA** ID: **1046** RegID: **1170**

I oppose this casino on the basis of there are enough casinos in the state of PA and if this fact is not sufficient to halt the construction of this casino then select another location, not Gettysburg, to have this casino.

Picture a gambling casino in the middle of the Mall in Washington, D.C. Somewhere in the vicinity of the reflection pool at the Lincoln Memorial, the casino would be a little less than a mile from the Washington Monument, from the top of which one would have a staggering view of the casino, and a little less than a mile from the United States Capitol, and almost next door to the White House. The economic impact and job opportunities for the Nation's capitol would be outstanding! In an area boasting around 6% unemployment and 160,000 people looking for jobs, a casino could employ thousands, let alone providing a "trickle down" economic benefit of millions of dollars finding their way into the pockets of the most needy in Washington, D.C. A casino in Gettysburg, PA, pales by comparison. With roughly 8% of its unemployed population of 8,000 looking for jobs, a casino in Gettysburg almost guarantees full employment, and more. But this is a drop in the bucket compared to a casino in D.C. Surely our Nation's leaders at all levels of government should exercise such foresight, such moral rectitude, such fervent disregard for the burdens imposed by a respect for the past and the sacrifices made by the corpses that have afforded us these wonderful freedoms to desecrate and deface the landscapes that mark their ultimate sacrifices! Yes, build Gambling Casinos in all highly trafficked historic areas!

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It is understandable that Mason-Dixon Resorts would identify Gettysburg, Pennsylvania as a profitable business opportunity. Each year millions of visitors flock to the rural Pennsylvania town in an attempt to better understand and connect to what the citizens of Gettysburg and the soldiers of two armies had experienced in July of 1863. Indeed it is the right of Mason-Dixon Resorts to seek to improve their business ventures, we live in a free enterprise society (something these soldiers fought to protect), however Gettysburg is not an appropriate place to build a casino. I vehemently oppose construction of a casino in Gettysburg because in my opinion it is disrespectful to the brave men who fought there, and indisputably places greed above the sacrifice of those who fought to protect the American way of life. The Battle of Gettysburg was the bloodiest battle in our nation`s history and its legacy must be protected. We are all shaped by it, and still live in the shadow of the Civil War today. Colonel Joshua Chamberlain of the 20th Maine Regiment who fought at Gettysburg explained `Unknown--but kept! The earth itself shall be its treasurer. It holds something of ours besides graves.` Please do not build a casino near the battlefield, as it is an encroachment on that treasured earth, which indeed holds something beyond the graves of those men who fought there in 1863.

I know Mr. LeVans request was turned down before because of `local` opposition. This time you will find the majority of the locals want it. Some checked out Hollywood Casino and found it was not as portrayed (drugs, crime, etc). I have seen the lavish plans for the other contenders, but Gettysburg has something they do not. Gettysburg has quite a bit of tax-exempt land, including the battlefield, colleges, churches, etc. These places do not pay taxes; therefore the people of Gettysburg and Adams County have to make this money up.

It has been said that people will destroy the battlefield and not respect it. The battlefield has been there since 1863 and the people have not destroyed it. The people will continue to respect it as they have done in the past. As for the men buried there I'm sure they could care less.

If the re-enactors no longer want to come to Gettysburg, then they are not truly interested in the battlefield- the same goes for the Heritage people. They are more interested in their own agenda, than the people of Gettysburg or Adams County. There have been various national organizations speaking against it, but how many have seen for themselves or are getting half-truths. It has been advertised as a casino to be built. Mr LeVan is using a building that has been there for over 30 years. He is going to remodel it and make it an asset to Gettysburg.

I'm asking you to help keep Gettysburg alive because the battlefield alone can no longer do that. People need jobs and Gettysburg has to offer more than just the battlefield to tourists.

Do not let a casino be built to one of the most important historical sites in the country. Over a hundred thousand Americans fought, tens of thousands were injured, and thousands were killed on this ground. There are thousands of square miles of American soil that are appropriate for a casino; this is not those miles. Build a casino there, and stay away from the battlefield!

Name: **Joe Ryan** State: **pa** County: **chester** ID: **1056** RegID: **1182**

I am completely OPPOSED to idea of a casino in or near Gettysburg Battlefield. It is a disgrace to the men & women who fought in this great Battle.

A word of caution:

Whenever gambling is legalized in a place, organized crime soon follows.

Be vigilant.

I am just going to say a few quick things and keep it to the point. This idea of putting a casino on or even close to a battlefield of this importance is fucking stupid! What are you guys thinking! Oh yeah that's right, money, all you guys think about is money! But let me put it this way some of these soldiers that fought on these fields were not getting paid, the union and confederacy were far behind on paying many of the troops. So put to put a casino on or even next to the battlefield where you throw money around like it is nothing is very disrespectful! Not only to the soldiers but to the family's whose ancestors served and the people who serve us today who let us remain the land of the free and the home of the brave! We owe our lives to those who fell and gave the last full measure to let us live in the land of the free...these `united` states! There are plenty of other locations where they can put this casino. All businesses like Walmart, who also is trying to put up a store on a major battle, and these `mason dixon resorts` need to learn that moving a few miles more down the street wont cut profits! Just do it and we can all be happy and save this nation some more embarassment! `We The People of These United States` need to start working together to find that median of present and past. As a civil war reenactor, and Freshman at Westfield State University in Massachusetts going for his Criminal Justice Major, please take my advice and just move down the street a mile or so, let these men rest in peace under the shade of the trees and not under a cement foundation. Thanks

If Pennsylvania needs the revenue from a casino, there are many other places to put it that will not desecrate a national treasure such as Gettysburg. It is horrifying to think that anyone would even consider building a casino this close to such an important historical landmark. This casino will bring people who are not interested in and do not respect this hallowed place. It will bring vandalism, drunk driving, theft, robbery, etc... Look at what it's done to Atlantic City. Sure, all the big, shiny buildings are pretty, but walk a block away from the casinos and you are taking your life in your hands. Gettysburg has plenty of tourism because of the battlefield, that is why I love to go there. I am not sure if I will continue to go if I have to contend with casino traffic and the obnoxious people that come along with it. Pennsylvania is a big state. Please put the casino somewhere else!

Our historical landmarks need to be preserved. The foundation of this country was put to the test during the Civil War, and the Battle of Gettysburg was indeed the turning point that led to the preservation of the Union. The men from both sides of the conflict who sacrificed their lives would be dishonored if a casino is permitted to be opened near the battlefield. While it may increase tourism, it will undermine the sacrifice and the reason why so many men gave their lives on that field over three of the bloodiest days in American history. The people who would come to the casino would not come to Gettysburg to learn about their history, to honor the fallen, as those of us who have and do visit the Gettysburg Battlefield wish to do. Our national battlefields and historical landmarks are already threatened, and many of the lost, because of urban sprawl and commercial development. Allowing a casino to be opened on Gettysburg's back door paves the way for other commercial ventures to further desecrate our history and dishonor the men and women who have fought and died to keep our country whole and free. A casino at Gettysburg is akin, in my mind, to an amusement park at Arlington. Find another location. Don't desecrate the memory and sacrifice of the 50,000 soldiers killed, wounded, captured, or missing after the Battle of Gettysburg.

Our historical landmarks need to be preserved. The foundation of this country was put to the test during the Civil War, and the Battle of Gettysburg was indeed the turning point that led to the preservation of the Union. The men from both sides of the conflict who sacrificed their lives would be dishonored if a casino is permitted to be opened near the battlefield. While it may increase tourism, it will undermine the sacrifice and the reason why so many men gave their lives on that field over three of the bloodiest days in American history. The people who would come to the casino would not come to Gettysburg to learn about their history, to honor the fallen, as those of us who have and do visit the Gettysburg Battlefield wish to do. Our national battlefields and historical landmarks are already threatened, and many of the lost, because of urban sprawl and commercial development. Allowing a casino to be opened on Gettysburg's back door paves the way for other commercial ventures to further desecrate our history and dishonor the men and women who have fought and died to keep our country whole and free. A casino at Gettysburg is akin, in my mind, to an amusement park at Arlington. Find another location. Don't desecrate the memory and sacrifice of the 50,000 soldiers killed, wounded, captured, or missing after the Battle of Gettysburg.

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As a descendant/daughter/wife/mother of soldiers and sailors who have fought in every American war since the Revolution, I am appalled at the proposal to build a casino at Gettysburg. No battlefield in our nation is more saturated with the blood of American patriots (both North and South) or more symbolic for our ultimate union. It is crassly inappropriate and disrespectful to consider operating a casino in that hallowed place, where our martyred president delivered the immortal Gettysburg Address. Casinos are fine, in suitable locations, but this is not one. Please do not demean the historic sacrifices of our heroes and our nation.

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I feel that building a casino in Gettysburg is a bad idea. I believe that the casino will have a negative effect on the battlefield. It seems like some people don't care about what happend in Gettysburg. What some people care about these days is making a profit. Most people don't realize that the battle of Gettysburg helped shape our country into what it is today.

The establishment of a casino on the Emmitsburg Road would be an insult to those brave Americans, North and South, who sacrificed so much on the hallowed ground in and around Gettysburg.

The most important battle ever fought in American history cannot be allowed to take a back seat to the avarice and greed so intertwined in the casino business.

I have been a visitor to the Gettysburg National Military Park since I was a child of five or six. This national treasure should be honored enough not to mar its historical value with the construction of a casino. While this casino may offer employment and financial aid to the area, these are not valid enough reasons to warrant its construction. There are other areas in Pennsylvania where it may be built. Not Gettysburg. Men fought and died on this land to preserve this nation. The push to build this venue is only about greed and money. If we allow a casino to be constructed this close to the Park, then we may as well allow a casino to be built adjacent to Arlington National Cemetery, or Normandy. What happened to morality in this country? We owe it to our children, and their children to preserve this sacred place forever. There is already too much commercialism in Gettysburg. Build a casino, by all means, somewhere...anywhere in Pennsylvania, but NOT in Gettysburg. Let it be.

Dear Mason-Dixon Resorts, LP,

With our society constantly on the grow, we are losing so many things we grew up with that now our children and grand-children do not have the privilege of enjoying.

With your present project (The Casino), you will be destroying not only precious land, but the heritage of many families. Currently the preservation of the Gettysburg Battlefield allows us to remember the many lives lost in the Civil War, many of those our own family members. We want the History to remain untouched and everything possible done to preserve and rehabilitate the land as it once was. History is what our Country is built on – losing that part of history erases the first hand experience that will touch the lives of many – especially those that will be able to walk across that battleground and feel the surroundings and the smells that those soldiers so many years ago experienced. Seeing grown men stand on that battlefield and cry from the feeling of emotions that surround them; remembering what actually happened on that ground should be enough to be preserved. Destroying the battlefield you will remove the knowledge and existence of the men that fought on that very ground. For anyone that has been graced to relive the Gettysburg experience through the preserved grounds and many reminders of yester-year, you will literally leave a hole in their heart by adding the Casino to the sacred grounds we now call History.

Gettysburg all ready see high rates of tourist. A casino is not needed any where in Adams County. It would only distract from all of the good the area as to offer. It will also bring in the rift- raff and lower rung of people into the area increasing crime and drug use. Casinos are not the answer to Pa. problems.

I come to the area 1 or 2 times a year. A casino will not cause be to visit any more frequently. In fact it may cause me to stay away!

Incredible. I can't imagine even the thought of a casino being entertained, yet here we are, thinking about allowing a casino near the epitome of American battlefields. Doesn't the Gettysburg area suffer enough from traffic issues? It's not like this country is suffering from a shortage of casinos, but each day we lose our history piece by piece to land development. Honestly Adams County should be following the model set forth at Perryville, return the area to a setting at the time of the battle. Force McDonald's away from where the 8th Ohio Infantry flanked Pickett's Charge. Shame for even considering this as an option.

Name: **FRANK ZECH** State: **PA** County: **ADAMS** ID: **1081** RegID: **1201**

WE THE RESIDENTS OF GETTYSBURG DO NOT NEED OR WANT A CASINO AT THE PROPOSED SITE. THE LAST THING WE NEED ARE MORE MINIMUM WAGE JOBS AND ANOTHER SLAP AT THE LOCAL HISTORY WE ARE SO PROUD OF

A casino anywhere in the vicinity of Gettysburg National Military Park would be an abomination. Truly sickening. Not only is the battlefield hallowed ground, the park is supposed to be a family-friendly environment.

Please show some respect for the fallen. Please show some reverence for our collective history. Please do not follow through with a casino at Gettysburg.

Name: **Marc P. Riddell** State: **PA** County: **Chester** ID: **1084** RegID: **1205**

I am against a Casino on a Battlefield where so many Americans have given their all. Yes, the location chosen was a staging area for Union cavalry during the Battle of Gettysburg.

Dear Sirs:

First, let me say that I find the fact that you are allowing people to comment who do not live in Adams County demonstrative of your understanding as to how far reaching the effects can be of what happens on National Historical sights. I thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment.

I was raised in Gettysburg. My grandfather and grandmother are buried at the Gettysburg National Cemetery. My parents were both Battlefield guides. I spent many summers at the Battlefield Campground where my dad would park our rv so that we would be able to walk or bicycle to wherever we wanted to on the battlefield. I may not live in Gettysburg anymore but it is precious to me. It is my home town. It is the place I learned to honor the heritage of my country. I learned that honor because I saw it daily demonstrated in the personal lives, the businesses, and the historical museums we were surrounded with in Gettysburg. I told my husband, who had never been to Pennsylvania, how different it was there. How there was so much more honor and respect for our country demonstrated there. When he visited, he was over-whelmed with what he saw. He could feel how hallowed that ground truly is. I was so proud to show him Gettysburg. Not just the battlefield but the whole area. We took my nieces and nephew there several times and they had similar feelings. They had never been to a place that honored history so well.

Maybe those who live in Gettysburg have lost sight of how precious a place they live in. That is the only explanation I can find in my heart for those who would support a casino in Gettysburg. I am not opposed to gaming. I go to Las Vegas and to the casinos in our area on the reservations. I do oppose the honoring of the economic benefits of a business over the honoring of lost lives of Americans. I am afraid that is what this battle is really about...what are we going to honor? What will the next generation growing up in Gettysburg learn to honor? Will they hold it as sacred once they see that money was more important than remembrance? I believe the consequences of this decision are far more reaching than the economy.

Thank you again for the privilege to comment on something that means so much to me.

Sincerely,

Mimi Row

Yes

With already a failure to control the growth surrounding the battlefield, I don't see why the individuals most affected by adding to the congestion, the locals and visitors, would want to add to the area more of the same. Gettysburg is the most famous battlefield in the Commonwealth and the addition of a gambling casino adds nothing to its place in US history. There certainly has to be some other location which would overwhelmingly support its placement in their backyard.

Name: **Mary P. Miller** State: **va** County: **Albemarle** ID: **1096** RegID: **1213**

Please do not desicrate the land around Gettysburg for a casino. The unintended consequences will be devastating! NO NO NO

I am writing this brief, to express My opposition to a gaming industry interest in, at, around or on `This Hallowed Ground`. Any who reads the Gettysburg Address cannot seriously and consciously be serious about a for profit gambling institution near this sacred sight.

Has mans humanity degressed to the point where We no longer honor Our fallen? No one, should think of , much less be allowed to inflict such disrespect on a National Battlefield and landmark.

Name: **Anthony C. Apfelbeck** State: **FL** County: **Seminole** ID: **1099** RegID: **1216**

It is completely inappropriate for a casino to be placed in Gettysburg. Please, do not approve this location.

please do not put a casino so close to such sacred ground. find another location further away. it would ruin the area and attract all sorts of riff raff. ive been to gettysburg, its such a nice town, a casino would destroy the memory of what actually took place. so please do not put a casino at gettysburg.....

Maybe someone should build a casino next door to your families cemetary. Just what we need to do start disrespecting our ancestors. No casino for Gettysburg.....

Please do not build any or add to the current buildings already located on the property . These are hallowed grounds of some of the most bloodiest battles during the civil war.

Gettysburg does not need to have any casinos. People who visit Gettysburg are not there to gamble!!! They are there to relive the history of this great country. The hallowed ground needs to stay that way. When you visit there you get very emotional about what history was held there. Putting a casino anywhere near the battlefields or any part of the town would be disrespectful.

I oppose the location of a casino so close to the hallowed battlefield at Gettysburg.

I am a life long citizen of Gettysburg, I wholeheartedly support the application to establish a Casino outside of Gettysburg. The opportunity for jobs and the increase of revenue to the community will be an extreme benefit and a welcome addition to what the community has to offer.

Jean W. Odom

I detest putting a Casino near Gettysburg, it is Hallowed Ground, and should strickly be used for the People who come there to pay their respects to the Soldiers on both sides who died there, it wouldn` t be right for people to gamble near the site where those brave soldiers shed their blood, it would be no different then, when the Roman Soldiers gambled under the Cross where Jesus was Crucified

I am a descendant of several Confederate & one Union combatant at Gettysburg and my family and I stand unalterably opposed to any building or development that distracts in the least from the sacred history of Gettysburg & its environs. I was only recently able to tour Gettysburg and walk Picketts Charge with my 17 year old daughter (a promise made 7 years ago before I suffered disabling surgical complications requiring 2 yrs hospitalization & rehab). We were so pleased with how well the community had preserved this site up to this point. Please do not turn this American holy place into a den of thieves!

I oppose the siting of any casino in the vicinity of Gettysburg on the grounds that it has the potential of disrupting hallowed ground. With any casino there is a certain amount of problems associated with this venue which include higher crime rates, disruptive traffic, an increase in socially related activities that do not equate to a wholesome experience.

These types of activities have no place close to where many Americans fought, died, and are buried.

Gettysburg is a an historical site of vast importance to this country, and it should not be spoiled by having a casine in close proximity.

Thank you.

My fellow Americans,

As an officer serving in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, I find the proposal of a casino within close proximity of one of our nation`s most hallowed places, Gettysburg, PA, disturbing. I find it to be an abomination of our nation`s ideals, and I am insulted that a proposal such as this would even be considered.

It is disrespectful to all US Service Members, those that have fallen, still serving, yet to serve, and their family members. The Soldiers that gave their lives in support of our country require more reverence than a gambling hall and the types of activities and people that are attracted to it.

In addition to the complete lack of respect given to the fallen Soldiers that lie in numerous marked and unmarked graves in Gettysburg, it is my understanding that the casino program developed in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania was to ease the burden of real estate taxes for all Pennsylvanians. I do not believe that the casino program has provided any relief. The taxes paid by Pennsylvanians are still high. There has not been, and I believe that there will never be, any benefit to Pennsylvanians by subsidizing gambling in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. This course of action will only increase the amount of crime and violence within the immediate areas of the casinos.

Gettysburg is not a place to foster crime and violence. It is a place for families to visit and reflect on the monumental sacrifice of thousands of Americans that fell on that hallowed ground.

Thank you for your kind consideration in this matter.

Vincent C. Cooper
1LT, SC
Resource Management POC
359th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade

HHC, 359th TTSB
Bagram Air Field
Afghanistan
APO, AE 09354

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A Casino is an abomination for our beautiful historic town of Gettysburg. People come here from near and far and I don't want drastic things happening to ruin our town. The opposition makes all these claims which will not be true in the end.

It will make it too easy for the poor people to get involved with false hopes and lose the little they have. One will be a member of our own family who suffers from severe head injuries from age 6 - now in his 40's. He is not always able to discern and avoid such things. If he hears that people can win a lot of money, he will go there and lose more money. Another thing is that our town will gradually look like a dump as has eventually happened in other areas. Mr. Levan is wealthy enough and this is just another way for him to increase his wealth at the expense of the poor.

I would like to speak, but, I don` t know if my schedule will permit me to be there.

I definitely do not want a casino anywhere near Gettysburg. When the casino was talked about last time and defeated, I was with the understanding that the ruling was: there could never be a casino closer than 15 miles from Gettysburg. Even that would be too close!

We do not want our wonderful town ruined by the social effects of having a casino in town!!!

Mr. Levan does not need to worry how someone in his family would be destroyed financially, because he has plenty of money. He says: `Tax relief, Jobs, etc.

No matter what he says, it is impossible to deal with human beings of various levels of income and expect that they will come out well with a casino in Gettysburg or any other town!

Curios About Casino investor defends proposal

This first position I wish to present is to all the locals' who tell outsiders to remain "out of their business." Both David LeVan and Joseph Lashinger are from the Philadelphia arena, and now Lashinger lives in south-Florida with his wife Julia. That's not very local to me. So that overturns and concludes that argument of local. So when locals' cry outside fowl, where will Lashinger's proceeds from the profits from this casino be going, Florida? That's not local economic growth.

Stop for a moment and review this comment, it really is self explanatory. "Lashinger, a former Penn National Gaming executive, is the majority owner in the Eisenhower Inn project, with 76.48 percent, while LeVan has 17.52 percent net ownership. However, Lashinger intends to transfer his share to LeVan, if the project is awarded a license by the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board later this year, or in 2011." "Mason Dixon Resort & Casino co-principal Joseph Lashinger was adamant Wednesday regarding his part in the ownership of the \$75 million project." Now do the math, Lashinger's ownership @ 76.48 percent of \$75 million = \$57.36 million. LeVan's ownership @ 17.52 percent of \$75 million = \$13.14 million. \$57.36 million plus \$13.14 million = \$70.5 million or 94 percent ownership. There remains \$4.5 million basically unaccounted for by the figures provided by Lashinger himself, if these numbers are accurate. So then where is the remaining 6 percent or \$4.5 million coming from?

Then too, does Lashinger have that kind of money, \$57.36 million, readily on hand? Or are there a number of silent investors such as Hollywood Casino, Penn National Gaming, Chester Downs, or Harrah's Chester Casino & Racetrack.

Lashinger goes on to say "intends to transfer his share, (76.48 percent or \$57.36 million to LeVan), if the project is awarded a license by the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board." That is a boat load of free money, \$57.36 million, handed over to David LeVan if you are to believe that. Or will LeVan be required to raise that money to buy Lashinger 76.48 percent share?

And here's another point of curiosity. Why is Joseph Lashinger, (a native Philadelphian now residing in Florida), a former state lawmaker for 14 years in Montgomery County near Philadelphia (1977-1990), and also highly involved with Hollywood Casino, Penn National Gaming, Chester Downs, and Harrah's Chester Casino & Racetrack involved in a \$75 million, 307-room, 600 slot machines, and 50 table games project when he's been associated with where he served as general counsel and vice president. Lashinger said he later served as founder and chief operator of the Chester Downs project in Delaware County, leading the \$435 million project that transformed what he described as a derelict brownfield in Delaware County into what is now known as Harrah's Chester Casino & Racetrack. among others? Is his sole purpose to get involved in this \$75 million venture only to hand his good friend who he's quoted as saying, "he's known LeVan since his days with the State Legislature," since LeVan previously served as CEO of Conrail in Philadelphia, 76.48 percent of \$75 million = \$57.36 million as a gift or a nice gesture of this long time good friendship? Only to "I want Dave LeVan to take it over completely," or is there another hidden agenda as he described southern-Pennsylvania as the "largest untapped market in state gaming,"? Does he have the Cumberland Township and Gettysburg best interest at heart? Nice to know someone living in southern Florida has this regions economic best interest always in his mind. All this sparks my curiosity.

Also, to make quotable and unsubstantiated remarks such as, "Eight of the nine counties that are presently home to Pennsylvania casinos have reported no increase in crime since those facilities opened in the last five years. "The problem is that this industry has not done a good job in dispelling the myth," said Lashinger. "The notion is just ridiculous about crime, along with prostitution," he continued. "These stories are old, old Las Vegas and Atlantic City tales." "There is no noticeable crime increase in communities that have casinos," "In every community that I've been, these projects were welcomed and now compliment other existing assets in those areas," said Lashinger. "I fully expect the same to happen

here.” Is only hyperbole as with the comment “Five years from now, after we have the license and we’re operating, our opponents will say — wow, we were wrong,” said Lashinger. “We will compliment the tourism industry, and they will compliment us,” he added. “It’s happened everywhere else I’ve been.” As far as crime goes, History Channel just presented a special on gangland warfare over narcotics in Atlantic City. Maybe this may never come to fruition in Gettysburg, but then again it may.

I strongly oppose casinos to be set up and use in the Gettysburg area. This area as you kown is a historical area and attracts visitors all over the United States. I feel the the casinos would hurt tourism and not help. People who come to this area come to see Gettysbury and what it means to us as a country not to come here for gambling. We have gambling just one hour from Gettysbury for people who would like to gamble which I am not oppose to but not in Gettysbury. It failed once already (casinos) so let the people have there way and not the few bussiness men who would make out on this. I am not oppose to gambling but not in Gettysburg. If you feel we need more gambling site place them else where (race tracks, other cities like Harrisbury) but leave historical Gettysbury casinos free.

As a teacher, I have observed changes in my students` attitudes when they have visited the Gettysburg battlefield during field trips, from pleasurable disinterest to awe, sincere reverence and quiet respect. They come to realize first hand that they share a common bond not only in their ages but in the dreams of those who lost their lives here as well. What kind of mixed message would we be presenting to these young people if, in the process of allowing them the historical experience of standing on the very spot where democracy and freedom were challenged, their view would be so disturbed by so inappropriate, disrespectful , and garish as a casino. Is this what we want our young people to think these young soldiers died for!?

I sincerely urge you not to approve the construction of any casino in this sacred territory. Pennsylvania is a very large state. Surely Mason-Dixon Resorts can locate in another area and Gettysburg, and the surrounding countryside, can be maintained as a memorial to those who fought here and as a perpetual teaching tool for generations to come.

Thank you,

Kathryn Smith

The sacred blood of thousands of Union soldiers in July of 1863 was spilled on the fields of Gettysburg, PA. Mason-Dixon Resorts wish to build a casino near the site and for what. To pad their own pockets, and if the county gets a cut for taxes then so be it. Do you not care about the fallen? Don't you give a damn about history? Is money so important that you would trample on the memory of those soldiers that gave the last measure of devotion (Lincoln's Gettysburg Address)? If yes, then I feel sorry for you and for the country.

It would be a travesty to put a casino so close to the National Military Park. Many of us are descendants of men who died there to preserve the union of the United States of America. Even though it may be outside the park boundaries, the entire area is sacred to many. Abraham Lincoln called it hallowed ground. A casino so close by diminishes the sacrifices made there by both Northern and Southern soldiers.

Please read the news stories about the `need` to revitalize Atlantic City`s casinos. Where are all the benefits that gambling was going to bring? Jobs, economic rebirth, municipal improvements? Take a tour of Atlantic City and see what has happened to those pipe dreams. If you want to have a casino, please put it at a distance from the historical area. How about Gateway Gettysburg? Or Chambersburg? This is a BAD idea for Gettysburg and akin to that mosque at Ground Zero proposal. Both are a slap in the face to the memory of those two sites.

My great grandfather fought at the battle of Gettysburg; fifty years later he attended the reunion held to commemorate the battle and, ideally, help bring former enemies together. His story is one of many that deserves to be remembered in the quiet and open spaces of the battlefield itself. Also to be remembered is the speech President Lincoln gave on the battlefield. As a teacher of public speaking, I often use Lincoln's Gettysburg Address as an example of a great speech--eloquent, deeply felt, and extraordinarily concise. While the world does still note what Lincoln said at Gettysburg, it should not be distracted from remembering what the soldiers who fought and died there did. A casino is about a quick fix--for the state's revenue, for the pockets of those who think they will win big. It's the opposite of the dedication, service, and honor that were part of Gettysburg. I urge the Gaming Control Board to rule against building a casino anywhere near this national monument.

There are few people in this country who don't know and revere the name of Gettysburg. I have walked the field there and felt the sacrifices made there. I will never forget standing at the First Minnesota monument and pondering the 86% casualty rate they suffered to save the Union position on July 2, 1863. Let Gettysburg remain sacred ground. Build casinos were they will not desecrate the land.

Gaming Control Board,

Casinos and consecrated ground don` t mix. The state of Pennsylvania would do well to leave the Gettysburg battle site alone.

Folks come to Gettysburg to view our heritage. A gambling establishment would be tawdry, leaving your state with a horrible legacy.

Don (Hap) Caldwell

339 SW Lakeview Avenue

Lake City, Florida 32025

386-752-6911

No casino! No slots!

I was born in North Carolina, and raised in Virginia. And while I now live in Montana, I have battled many years to stop devlopmonsters from destroying sacred ground, native habitat, and cultural heritage. You pose a threat that I would like to go on record as being adamantly opposed to.

My ancestors from Virginia and North Carolina fought in the Civil War, defending their homeland from invaders, and pushing them further north. This was a huge turning point during the epic Civil War, and though my ancestors saw the worst of it, it is a critical piece of our cultural heritage.

Your actions - your casino - would further desecrate sacred ground. The all-mighty dollar is a sickness in this world, and I oppose your proposed facility near Gettysburg. I have been to Gettysburg and it is one of the most haunting and powerful places in the world. Do not foul it up with more of the same American `business as usual.` Not only would it destroy the experience of Gettysburg, you are helping feed the nasty disease of gambling. My ancestors did not die for this.

Do not proceed with this casino anywhere near Gettysburg, or anywhere else. It is a blight to society. I would also like to incorporate any comments submitted by the Civil War Preservation Trust as my own - I fully support their efforts to stop you.

Thank you.

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Thank you.

PLEASE , PLEASE do not put a casino anywhere near the battlefield. I have nothing against casinos but putting one near the battlefield is disrespectful and appalling. I am a frequent visitor to your beautiful town, I love it. However, it just wouldn't feel the same if a casino was right there in the middle of all that great history. Can't you locate the casino in some other part of your county?

I have first in love with History when I stepped foot on the hallowed ground at Gettysburg 14 years ago, for my class field trip. To this day, Gettysburg is still my favorite place to go and I've been to a lot of places, including Europe.

Each time I go back, I see something new, learn something new; there is so much to see and do in Gettysburg. A few years ago my step-father was part of the Union contractor that built the new Cyclorama center; so now Gettysburg holds an even dearer spot in my heart because I feel a part of it now.

I've told my husband for years now that we should just move to Gettysburg since I'm always wanting to go. Now, my little sister is most likely going to be attending Gettysburg College next fall.

Everytime I walk those hallowed grounds, I feel as if the soldiers are still there, if you concentrate hard enough sometimes I think you can still hear the drums, smell the gun powder. Gettysburg was not just a place where a battle was fought, it is now the resting ground for thousands of soldiers and a place where their families can go and be at peace knowing that they rest there.

I now have children of my own and I want them to be able to go on their first field trip to Gettysburg and see it as I did, modern yet still stuck in 1863.

To put a casino in, and to extend it into Picketts Charge...why are we even having to write these letters of opposition? This shouldn't even be being discussed! It's a HISTORIC LANDMARK, a NATIONAL PARK! It has its own quarter for crying out loud! These people should be ashamed of themselves for even contemplating the idea of putting a casino in the middle of Gettysburg over someones resting grounds, and my sweetest childhood memory!

I beg you, do not let them do this, it would take away everything that I love about Gettysburg. Though it has been modernized in many ways, it still somehow feels untouched, as if it were stuck in 1863....a casino would change all of that.

As a lover of history and frequent visitor to Gettysburg, I vehemently oppose the construction of a casino in Gettysburg. This hallowed ground should not be desecrated by individuals trying to cash in on the loss of so many lives who fought for what they believed in. A casino would forever negatively change the landscape of this area. Please do not ruin one of the places I hold dear to my heart and dream about visiting. Thank you!

Name: **Deborah Hocko** State: **pa** County: **luzerne** ID: **1152** RegID: **1274**

I am against the casino near the park. It is a desecration to the souls that gave their lives.

My name is Theodore (Tad) Sattler and I am a citizen of Connecticut and the United States of America. I belong to the Civil War reenactment and preservation group called Company G, 14th Regiment Connecticut Volunteer Infantry based in Connecticut. I am writing in opposition to the planned casino in Cumberland Township, Adams County called Mason-Dixon Resorts, LP. Recently in several discussion groups on the casino issue I was told my opinion does not count because I am an "outsider", i.e. I do not live in Gettysburg or Adams County. These comments have inspired me to exercise my First Amendment rights and submit my feelings to you today. Gettysburg, unlike hundreds of thousands of other American cities and towns, is unique because what happened there affected every American citizen from July 1863 to the present day. Therefore Gettysburg not only belongs to the citizens fortunate to live within its boundaries but to every American citizen and all Americans should voice their opinion on this matter. Gettysburg holds a very special place in the history of our glorious nation and what took place there forever changed the face of our nation, at a cost of 50,000+ plus casualties. The battle was so significant that President Abraham Lincoln came there in November 1863 and delivered his now famous Gettysburg Address, one of the most famous in American history, which further defined our nation and gave a purpose to why he was waging this Civil War for the salvation of our nation and to abolish slavery. Lincoln said in his address that "The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract." Unfortunately Lincoln never considered that in the future there would be a group, Mason-Dixon Resorts, LP, which would plan to put a casino within ½ mile of this hallowed ground that would forever "detract" from its significance. This proposed site for the casino is also within view of President Dwight Eisenhower's Farm, Eisenhower National Historic Site. Just as the battle that transpired in Gettysburg in July 1863 forever changed the face of that town, putting a casino in Gettysburg would forever scar its face and detract from its true significance in American History. The so called tax-relief from the casino's profits is so minuscule to the County's budget that it should not be a deciding factor to grant a casino license. The threat of its presence near the battlefield far outweighs any tax-relief.

I travel to Gettysburg 4-5 times a year, if not more, as a volunteer and reenactor as well as to just vacation in the National Park. My group and I volunteer in the National Park's Adopt-A-Position Program spending hours cleaning brush at our "adopted" positions held by the 14th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry at The Angle, the Bliss Farm as well as numerous other jobs they have assigned to us. I perform this work to make sure that this National Park is available for future generations of Americans and so that what the soldiers did here is never forgotten. I am asking the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board to help keep Gettysburg free of casinos for my family, me and future generations of my family by disapproving the gaming license for the Mason-Dixon Resorts, LP. I have witnessed first hand in Connecticut what the Foxwoods and Mohegan Sun Casinos have done to permanently change the landscape of their community and surrounding communities. I do not wish this to happen to Gettysburg, one of America's National Treasures.

Name: **john m. levan** State: **pa** County: **adams** ID: **1154** RegID: **1276**

I just want to say I support the casino coming to adams county. I was born a raised here in gettysburg and I know that the proposed site would not restrict or detour people. It is needed and my taxes are extremely high. I am looking for entertainment and stimulating adams county economy.

As a resident of Pennsylvania and a direct descendant of one of the founders (Robert Morris of Pennsylvania, signer) I would like to register my opposition to the operation of a casino anywhere near the town of Gettysburg. The state appears to be ready to throw aside the whole morality of the issue in favor of an easy source of revenue. Even recent history has shown that these business are more of a drain on society than a benefit, especially in these difficult times. I firmly believe that the operators and the state are trying to take advantage of people with a predilection toward gambling.

My great, great grandfather James H. Hill was wounded on July 3 1863 in the battle of Gettysburg. The men that lost their lives need to be respected. This battleground area needs to be preserved. Use other land for the casino/resort.

Ladies and Gentleman of the PA Gaming Control Board,

I urge you to please consider the national and worldwide importance of the area of Gettysburg, PA. as an historic heritage tourism site as you deliberate on the best site with which to award PA's final gaming license.

On this hallowed ground the greatest battle in North American history was waged, and millions of visitors from around the globe come to visit this area each year, to pay their respects and try to interpret in their own minds the battle that occurred here. While the proponents of the Mason-Dixon Resorts casino will argue that the site of the casino is not `on the battlefield` (and indeed it is not on the Gettysburg National Military Park), there was undoubtedly action related to the battle that occurred at this site and placing a gaming facility anywhere near what so many consider to be hallowed ground will tarnish the area's historic reputation irreparably.

While several local polls show a slight majority in favor of the casino, all polls taken at the state and national level show overwhelming opposition to the idea of a casino near Gettysburg. Any perceived benefit from a casino here are overwhelmed when you consider the extent to which our historic reputation will be damaged by having this highly unpopular `attraction` placed here.

There are several sites up for consideration of the license which demonstrate far superior earnings potential with simultaneously lower rates of opposition. I beseech you to please award the license to one of these better situated casino sites. **PLEASE DO NOT GAMBLE WITH GETTYSBURG.**

Most Sincerely,

Christine Thomas

I am not e resident of Adams County or Gettysburg, however, the Gettysburg Battlefield holds a special place in my heart. I have read countless books on the Battle and it`s Historic significance, indeed tearful at times, and have visited the Battlefield as a youngster. With all due respect to the local residents this is not a local issue but a National one, for indeed, it was this Battle that shaped the outcome of the Civil War and the preservation of the Union. Ultimately it is for you, the Government Of the People, by the People and For the People and the Gaming Commission to decide. I pray you make the decision that will continue to honor this Hallowed ground. Thank you.

I don't support putting a casino in or too near Gettysburg.....While I completely support a state's interest in bringing in tourist dollars to help their economy, I think this idea would be better suited for a different geographic area that might benefit more. I think Gettysburg should appeal to the kind of people who can appreciate the importance of the town's symbolism to our country's past. The demographic that normally draws casinos may cause problems clashing with the demographic already being drawn in.....

I do not know where the proposed casino would be located, but the land in and around Gettysburg is sacred ground to the people who love their country. I think it would be disrespectful to build any kind of facility that promotes vices such as gambling and drinking in a solemn place where the lives of our brothers were once lost. Keep Gettysburg sacred for those of us who visit as often as possible to connect to a time in our country's past where the ultimate sacrifice was made for so many and their families. (OUR families.)

While gambling and drinking may be controlled by some in life, it is also highly addictive to others. People with addictions are usually in a mental state that forbids them to focus on anything other than their addiction. It is common sense to realize such self-indulgences have always led to more crime and negativity to appease the drive to get a rush from the addiction. Does Gettysburg have the funds to support more EMS/police/fire divisions that would need to be increased?

I am not a resident of Pennsylvania, but I am a resident of the USA.....I hope this board makes the appropriate decision and relocates this idea somewhere else.

I have been bringing my family yearly to the Battlefield for my kids to enjoy the rich heritage of the Battlefield and surrounding area. We as Americans need to protect, what is hallowed ground. Our fore fathers though it important enough to engage each other on this land to fight for what they hold dear and true. Wether it was for the Union or for the Confederacy. Thousands gave thier lives not for the American Dollar, but for Ideals and believes that far surpass the material possions of this land. They fought and died for something greater.

Putting a Casino within the proximity of the Battlefield, not only disgraces our generation, but disgraces the very ideals for which they fought. Gettysburg is a place that all people from all walks of life can come and learn about where our Nation changed itself and evolved. People from all over the world come each year to indulge in the History of Our Nation. A Casino, not only takes away from the feel of the Land, but also takes away the Majestic quality of what they fought and died for.

Name: **Joseph Schulmeister**

State: **PA**

County: **Butler**

ID: **1173**

RegID: **1298**

There is no need for a casino so near the hallowed ground of the Gettysburg National Military Park. I feel it is a disgrace to the memory of the thousands of brave soldiers that gave their lives here. Gambling is not the do all/ end all to the fiscal problems of this commonwealth.

My name is Victor Smith. I am a descendant of 14 confederate soldiers that fought in 2 of the 3 days of the battle. The battle field stands not only as a historical landmark but as a resting place for the dead confederate and a memorial to American Pride. My ancestors were part of Picketts Charge they were all with the Donaldsonville Volunteer Battery. My ancestor Capt. R. Landry was the commander. This battle field is hallowed ground not to have drunks stumbling around the traffic and all the other commotion. I want to bring my children there some day to see where their ancestors fought. I am also a reenactor I was part of the 145th Gettysburg reenactment and the field is a place to pay tribute not a home of neon ill gain. **DO NOT ALLOW THEM TO RUIN THIS BATTLE FIELD AND OPEN A CASINO.**

How can anyone support a casino so close to the Gettysburg battlefield? Even though I live on the west coast I visit Gettysburg 3 to 4 times a year. This casino will bring additional noise and traffic to highly sensitive sacred ground where thousands of Americans died. This additional traffic and noise will harm the tranquility of the field. Why does a casino have to go in so close to the field? Why not put one in farther away? Its the same thing as putting a casino in right next to the twin towers in NYC or on Ford Island at Pearl Harbor except more Americans died at Gettysburg.

Please oppose this casino and try and work out a different location for it farther away.

Sincerely,

Michael Lashchuk

Name: **Jennifer R. Powell** State: **PA** County: **Adams** ID: **1176** RegID: **1299**

I am strongly opposed to a casino in or near Gettysburg, PA. Please do not license Mason Dixon Casino or any casino anywhere near Gettysburg.

Name: **Beulah D. Karr** State: **MI** County: **Oakland** ID: **1177** RegID: **1301**

I oppose anything being built on the hallowed ground of Gettysburg.

Name: **GREGORY A. MCCOY** State: **DE** County: **NEW CASTLE** ID: **1178**
RegID: 1300

I don't approve of the plan to build a Casino in Gettysburg or near the battlefield. It is hallowed ground. It should rather be build in a location, within a short driving distance much like the Boyd's Bear facility.

i feel the proposed gaming facility will positively impact on adams co and pa. It will give additional reasons for a visit to gettysburg allowing existing tourist and agri business to expand and increase their employment oppurtunities. the proposed location is 2.1 miles from the last guide station on battlefield land and is an existing facility.

Has the amighty dollar clouded your judgement to the point that you want to disgrace the fact, and the memory of our forefathers. Thousands were wounded and died on this land , so that our freedom was perserved, and now you want to build on their sacred ground. Being a Florida resident, may not hold much weight, but I have traveled to Gettesburg twice and have toured the area from Baltimore to York and into Lancaster, and see NO reason for a casino in that area. Please do not disgrace this historical battlefield and small town appeal with a casino!!!

The premise of a casino anywhere in the vicinity of the hallowed ground of Gettysburg is just beyond comprehension. Has our reverence for the sacrifices given by so many to be cast aside in the interest of commercial greed? Is there no sanctity to the ground these men died upon? This issue is tantamount to the Ground Zero mosque, it is not a question of the right to place a commercial venture near such hallowed ground, is it the right thing to do? The answer is clearly NO! I employ you, the hearing examiner(s) to protect the ground, protect the symbolism, protect our history, protect our America. Thousands paid a much greater price for that ground than you will be asked to pay for denying this petition. Thank you. Michael R Highsmith

I grew up in IL so I have been immersed in Lincoln since childhood. Even as a child I grasped the importance of the Civil War to this nation and the significance of Lincoln's beautiful Gettysburg address.

This past May I realized a dream come true when my husband and I went to PA and spent 3 days visiting the battlefield both on our own and with an excellent battlefield tour guide. One of the things that struck me was the serenity of the area and how I imagined it had stayed true to the way the land looked during those 3 days. To think that anyone is now even considering an abomination of a casino so close to the battlefield is, in my opinion, misguided at best and perhaps downright contemptuous to the memory of the fallen soldiers who fought on both sides of this hallowed ground.

I implore the powers that be to please put a stop to this NOW. I now live in AZ and am surrounded by gambling casinos on the various Indian reservations and while I certainly won't try to stop anyone from gambling should that be their desire, I also feel there are other areas in the vicinity where this resort could be placed that would not infringe on the sanctity of the battlefield.

Thank you for allowing me to express my feelings on this issue, which is very very important to myself and my husband.

Name: **Catherine S. DeRousha** State: **MI** County: **Oakland** ID: **1191** RegID: **1316**

Please preserve this hallowed ground in memory, and with respect, for those who have fallen in service to their country during the American Civil War. A gambling casino would be an insult to their memory. Build it elsewhere.

I had a dream last night that a very minor earthquake had occurred the night before at Ike`s burial site in Kansas.

An Angel had appeared to him to inform him that there was being considered a Casino to be built at Omaha Beach.

You can appreciate his dis-belief as he turned over in his grave. Can`t we see the similarities with Gettysburg?

I want the right to choose whether or not my family lives in a casino community and not have the decision thrust upon me.

In my life time I have visited the Gettysburg Battlefield sight at least four times. I know of no other place that I have identified more with those who fought and died in this war and it`s meaning for our age. A casino in the area would make this sacred place seem greatly cheapened by those who lust for money.

Less than two miles from where I sit a Casino is being built, one that we the residents of Franklin County Ohio voted against. There are plenty of unwanted casinos chasing after fewer dollars. Please do not permit a casino from being established in the area.

I vehemently oppose licensing a casino in Gettysburg.

It is exploitation of the name of Gettysburg in the worst possible way. It offends my sensibilities in all ways. People come to Gettysburg to be respectful of what happened here. A casino in Littlestown or elsewhere is fine by me. The supposed `philanthropy` is mixing issues. It will have a Gettysburg address and that in itself is highly inappropriate. It seems to me that a grossly unfair recent property assessment has become an issue mixed with how the casino can supposedly help with taxes. It is using the anger at taxes inappropriately as well where it has no basis. The lack of infrastructure in this town will probably end up with increasing taxes should a casino be built. People are being swindled and don't see through all the fancy claims. They have been given false hopes and it makes what will happen to our town should a casino appear lose everything it has had. It has been represented as being a little out of the way location. It offends every ounce of my sensibility to allow this. People are hurting for jobs and it is blatant exploitation. For every 1% the casino would give in taxes it would take away \$50 million dollars. This money would come from area workers who cannot afford it. It would attract a lot more traffic that will spoil the rural nature of this area. Please do not let a casino exist near this rural very small town with a big heart. It will make the pressure of development here even greater. We have no source of water in Adams County. Water is only from rainfall here. We do not need development and we do not need to lose the rural nature of our community. It would ruin it. In all ways. It would be an irretrievable loss.

Dont let them build a casino in Gettysburg. My Great-Great Grandfather was in the 36th PA Emergency Militia and they were sent to Gettysburg after the battle to collect government property, take wounded to the hospital, and bury the dead. He buried the dead with his own hands so that they could rest in piece, surely not to be buried in the shadow of a casino. Building a casino anywhere near Gettysburg would be desecrating hallowed ground. Gettysburg is a place to go to remember our fallen hero`s that gave there lives for our country, not to go gamble! I urge you not to let a casino be built near Gettysburg and preserve the memory of those who `Here gave there lives that this nation might live.

Name: **George Hayner** State: **IL** County: **Kendall** ID: **1222** RegID: **1350**

Gettysburg, PA, is a special memorial to the brave men of the Union and Confederacy that gave so much there in 1863. Please do not allow a casino spoil it. It is a sacred memorial. Build your casino elsewhere. Thanks!

I live and teach school in eastern Connecticut. We have TWO casinos here the Mohegan sun and Foxwoods. Gettysburg and the people Adams county hold a central place in my heart for I teach American history and the people in Gettysburg and Adams county have been so wonderful the many times that I have visited. That is why I must warn them against building this casino. As a resident of Eastern Connecticut I must watch as monies from the two nearby casinos fill the coffers of cities miles away to improve thier roads and schools. Meanwhile the struggleing cities of my New London county must deal with the influx of low income families who come in to take the low paying service jobs. Our schools struggle from lack of funding our roads are choaked and need improviving, more fire and police and other first responders are needed, and we suffer a plague of drunk drivers. That is the way it is we deal with the social, educational, infrastructure and other problems and the money from the local casinos goes not to the host town or county but to the areas of the state with more political clout. Times are tough I understand. If you must build build far enough away from Gettysburg so as not to bring these problems to the doorstep of this most hallowed ground. The little town of Gettysburg has done enough indeed they have given more than enough for Pennsylvania, and our Republic-CRM

The battlefield at Gettysburg is hallowed ground. The soldiers, blue and gray, who fought on this ground in 1863 made it hallowed, and we need to keep it that way for future generations. We owe it to these men to keep this casino out of Gettysburg. What's next, an amusement park, a race track....one can only imagine! While I realize that the Eisenhower Conference Center is already a structure, why does a casino have to go there??? Won't a casino elsewhere in Adams County do as much for the local economy? If tourists who come to visit the battlefield want to go to a casino, I am sure they would drive 20 miles to get to one. It just boggles my mind to think that ANYBODY would even consider the possibility of putting slot machines near a battlefield of such historic magnitude, where such brave and honorable men fought to preserve our nation. It's obvious to me that those behind the proposed casino really don't care to even try to find a different location. To them, it's Gettysburg or nothing....but why?? The battle at Gettysburg continues....please, I beg you, find someplace else to put it, it does not have to be on this battlefield, on this place that draws thousands of visitors to see where men, north and south, fought for their beliefs. We must continue fighting for ours....and for them.

Name: **Roland Offutt** State: **PA** County: **Adams** ID: **1230** RegID: **1360**

This Casino is a local decision and is not related to the Battlefield. It`s our Taxes and our Jobs at stake. We, the people of Adams County, need this boost to our local economy.

Name: **Joyce Offutt** State: **PA** County: **Adams** ID: **1231** RegID: **1361**

Adams County desperately needs this casino. We need jobs. It will boost local businesses and for those of us on social security it will give some tax relief and keep more seniors in their homes. Please give the license to Gettysburg.

Name: **Jean Klinedust** State: **PA** County: **Adams** ID: **1235** RegID: **1365**

As a life-long resident of Adams County, I support this project. We need jobs and tax relief. We need economic growth. Please give the license to Mason Dixon.
thank you

In July of 1863, over two hundred thousand men from both the North and the South fought a three day battle here in Gettysburg that helped to determine the eventual outcome of the Civil War. More than fifty thousand were killed, many of them possibly still buried beneath the soil of Gettysburg in the exact spot where they fell in battle, unknown to all but God himself.

In November of that same year, President Abraham Lincoln visited Gettysburg to dedicate a national cemetery to honor those who gave their lives here. In his statements that day he said, `It is rather for us to be dedicated to the great task remaining before us - that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to the cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion - that we highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain.`

And now there`s talk of building a gambling casino just a half mile from the battlefields - land that has been called hallowed ground. Don`t let anybody tell you that since the casino would not be built on the actual battlefield that it isn`t hallowed ground - all of Gettysburg should be considered hallowed ground.

When much work has been done over these past few years to restore the battlefields back to their look in 1863, how can a casino just a half mile away help to create that vision?

You can argue that a casino will create great revenue for the town, but at what cost? Are you willing to do what President Lincoln asked us not to do - to let those who gave their lives here to have died in vain? Because that is exactly what you will be doing if you approve this casino. It will be a slap in the face to those men and their descendants. Do you really want people coming to Gettysburg for the casino rather than for what the town represents?

Gettysburg should be remembered for its place in history. Gettysburg should be remembered for its battlefields. Gettysburg should be remembered for the men who fought and died here.

Gettysburg should be remembered for the greatest speech ever given by an American president. Gettysburg should NOT be remembered as a mecca for gambling.

Admittedly, I don't live anywhere near the Gettysburg battlefield. However, having visited, I feel a deep national connection to it. It is sacred ground. I adamantly oppose the desecration of this vital, historic place that would result from erecting a casino in Gettysburg.

Respectfully,

dan jackson,
retired teacher

Name: **Kent Gramm** State: **PA** County: **Dauphin** ID: **1249** RegID: **1380**

I teach part time at Gettysburg College, am a trustee of the Seminary Ridge Historic Preservation Foundation, and have written books about the events at Gettysburg in 1863. We need to respect other things than money in this country, so I oppose the opening of casinos anywhere near the hallowed ground of Gettysburg.

History is a precious commodity. We use in – just like a commodity – in a variety of ways. We can learn from it. It can gather us together. It can provide emotional and mental support. It can actually guide us into better times, increased public well-being and common good.

But history has to be intact in order to do those things.

History must be recorded and observed and reflected upon.

How sad when the reflection of a site that is manifest in the unification and strength of our country... a site that is ripe with messages of compassion and decency... a site that speaks volumes about commitment and courage and ideals... How sad when that site will no longer speak to us about those values, but instead will speak to us of financial gain, of entertaining the masses, and of games of chance. How far do we have to fall, to go from the ideals that preserved a nation to games of chance.

Whatever the problem, whatever the issues, whatever the considerations that are presented for building a casino in the vicinity of the battlefields and historic community of Gettysburg, there is one overarching and powerful reason not to: history is a commodity and we need to preserve and to use that commodity wisely. We, our children, our children's children will be diminished if we no longer have the commodity and resource of the history of integrity and values made manifest at Gettysburg.

We will be less. And we should not let that happen.

Name: **Theresa Donati** State: **PA** County: **Adams** ID: **1254** RegID: **1388**

I am completely against building a casino in my backyard, literally. My home is only one mile away from the proposed site of the Mason-Dixon Resorts. This casino would desecrate the ground of many fallen soldiers in this town in 1863.

The idea of a casino upon the threshold of arguably our most sacred battleground is a shame. Casinos have popped up all over the U.S. and are no longer the draw that some people believe. Their income boost is entirely short-lived, relegated to only a few (certainly not the employees) and rarely leads to further development in any meaningful sense. Being a resident of Las Vegas, Nevada, I can assure you that our 14.7% unemployment is plenty of proof that slots and tables do not add up. To cash in for a quick buck on the backs of the men who died to keep our country alive is shameful. This casino will make a mockery of all Americans while providing a potential economic boost to barely a handful, and questionably at that. Every day I drive past the carcasses of dead casinos with a far, far larger pedigree, budget, and marketing base than Mason-Dixon Resorts could ever provide, and can assure you that this is the wrong thing for everyone, both locally and certainly nationally.

Gettysburg Battlefield is a sacred area which should be preserved in its current condition. There should be no development or further encroachment on the battlefield or surrounding town. There are plenty of other locations throughout the State of PA where a casino could be built that would not destroy the historic significance of the Battle of Gettysburg.

I am opposed for two reasons. First, I have witnessed the hardships placed on children because of a parent`s gambling. Often the family suffers financial hardship from obsessive gambling. Second, I oppose the proposed location of the casino in Gettysburg because this would create the image of Gettysburg as a casino site, an image that is totally incompatible with Gettysburg`s historic significance for the entire country.

We NEED jobs and tax relief. The tourist industry alone in Gettysburg, with its steadily decreasing visitation numbers, can not keep our local municipalities afloat. Cumberland Township is in desperate need of the additional revenue and jobs.

Out-of -county (and out-of-state) residents should have no say on local issues, especially issues concerning putting a legal business on private property.

Name: **B. Corinne Higgs** State: **PA** County: **Adams** ID: **1263** RegID: **1399**

I believe that the Mason Dixon Resort will not negatively affect the tourism industry in Gettysburg and it will create much needed jobs for Adams County.

Dear Sirs/Madam:

I testified before the last hearing and my testimony at that time involved the actual first-hand statements from Civil War veterans from a reunion, wherein there was a casino present to the east side of Little Round Top. The veterans themselves petitioned the government to have that casino, saloon, and brothel removed. They did not want the corruption on their beloved, hallowed ground.

This is the 2nd time now that the same man is persisting in putting a casino in the Gettysburg quarter, enough to have many believe he is absolutely and without question desirous of bringing corruption to Gettysburg, a National Shrine. The idea is viscious and disrespectful to this nation`s fallen heroes.

What`s more, when you come in from Rte. 15, which is part of the Congress-approved Journey through Hallowed Ground, the first thing you would see is a `casino` and not the battlefields. Right there you have lost all sense of the purpose of Gettysburg.

How downright selfish, arrogant, and rude for some to think that monetary gain could be a suitable replacement for hallowed ground. There is no replacement! This is the most famous National shrine to fallen heroes in the nation. Shouldn`t people remember Gettysburg for what was done here and not how many slots the town has compared to others? This is the most ridiculous, absurd sense of progress--the vice of corruption in a place where brave men fought and died. They fought and died to solidify a country, not for gaming. There are many other places to put a casino other than Gettysburg, PA. One man`s obstinance and persistence in wanting to malign fields of glory seems to be an act of desparation on the part of ego. He has no respect and it shows. If he did, he would move his idea to another area altogether so as not to corrupt the name and sacred area of Gettysburg. The town needs money, yes, but it doesn`t need to invite the corruption and as for the jobs--not everyone in the town is going to work at the casino. The creation of all these jobs is pure myth.

I urge the PA Gaming Control Board to please keep Gettysburg free from this same vice that the soldier`s once before fought to keep off their hallowed ground.

Thank you most sincerely.

Barbara L. Rowe

The terrible proposal currently under consideration to place a gambling casino in Adams Co within a 1/2 mile of the Gettysburg Battlefield is truly a desecration of an area dedicated to the memory of true heroes of American history. While in itself gambling is not an evil, it is an inappropriate activity in an area sanctified by the blood of these heroes. Americans would be horrified if such an activity was allowed within a 1/2 mile of Normandy Beach where other Americans lost there lives in battle.

Further, the positives that are supposed to accrue to Adams County with a casino here, I believe, have been grossly overstated. As a matter of fact, the loss of heritage tourism, which is inevitable if this casino is allowed, would negatively impact the economy here.

Please take these factors into account in your deliberations and vote down this proposal for a gambling casino in Adams County.

Thank you for your attention to these concerns.

Please put

The following article posted by imblacknittravel.com best summarises my views:

Gettysburg may be the closest thing we have in America to sacred ground...and somebody wants to put a casino on it? This is obscene.

America has a lot of historical sites under threat from the developer's bulldozer. You wouldn't expect Gettysburg, PA to be one of them. But oddly enough, thanks to a retired railroad boss, it is.

Every American schoolchild is taught what happened here. In our Civil War, two massive Union and Confederate armies slaughtered each other for three days to decide the fate of this nation — not to mention the fate of folks who look like me.

The battle was fought not just near the town, but in it. Abraham Lincoln would later give his famed Gettysburg Address here. The battlefield officially is a national park, but the entire Gettysburg area is viewed as something of a shrine.

David LeVan, onetime CEO of CONRAIL, thinks this would be just the coolest place to put a casino.

Is this guy on crack?

I'd love to tell you that America is being punked and Mr. LeVan is just kidding. Unfortunately, he's dead serious, and this is how serious he is: The authorities in Pennsylvania shot down this idea when he first proposed it five years ago. Now, he's back, pushing it again.

Gettysburg may be the closest thing we have in this country to sacred ground. Even more than Pearl Harbor. Even more than Arlington National Cemetery. And yes, even more than Ground Zero in Manhattan.

I've never met David LeVan. He's probably a decent guy who genuinely would like to do something profitable for the town of Gettysburg, as well as for himself. In the midst of a lingering recession, it's hard not to sympathize with that.

But if he thinks that a casino is an appropriate venue for this place, then David LeVan has lost his damned mind.

To Whom it Should Concern:

The very idea of placing a casino in our country's most recognized historical borough is insane. I have been to Gettysburg on several occasions to attend a major greyhound event in Gettysburg. If I could live anywhere as opposed to where I live now, it would be Gettysburg.

With the number of casinos popping up like weeds all over what's left of our country, another one in a place where there should NOT be one is astounding. This is sacred ground folks.

Should anyone read up or listen to audio book cd's regarding those `bloody days` in July, it boggles the mind of the VAST

NUMBER of soldiers on both sides paid the ultimate price.

One of the best ones written is `The Killer Angels` by Michael Shaara. Another is `Landscape Turned Red` by

Stephen W. Sears, the story of Antietam.

It is my hope and prayer that somebody `wakes up` and prevents this horrible `attraction` becoming a reality. We, this country, doesn't have that much `history` to fall back on.

We're still in the `current events` column. For *history* go over to England, Ireland, Scotland, etc.

That's where the

history is, not here. What little history we DO have, should

not be tampered with whatsoever. May all of us `Restore

Honor` to those who paid the price for all of us who enjoy

a country and borough who has kept our nation in one piece.

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Judy Jones, Kalamazoo, MI

To whom it may concern,

Please re-consider, your first instincts are correct, keep a casino out of Gettysburg. Do not disgrace the grounds that soldiers fought so hard for, don't let their death be in vain. Gettysburg, a family tourist spot, has been a sacred place of education, reflection and respect. A casino is a disgrace to the social market that appreciate Gettysburg for it`s best purpose and the financial benefit of a casino in that area is not going to be a success. There are so many other towns that would and could benefit from a casino and the financial market would be more appropriate and a benefit to all parties involved. Please, reconsider...Gettysburg is no place for a casino.

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Name: **Hjalmar A. Hovey** State: **IL** County: **Lake** ID: **1276** RegID: **1412**

For several years I have worked in the American Civil War Reenacting community and witnessed several parcels of land fall to the developers shovel for the sake of nothing more than corporate profits. Please **DO NOT ALLOW** this to happen anywhere near the hallowed ground of the Gettysburg National Military Park. Especially for an endeavor as detrimental to the community as a gambling casino. **DO NOT ALLOW THIS LICENSE!** Thank you

This was beyond any stretch of the imagination one of the bloodiest wars, and it took place on our homeland, over 600,000 men lost their lives in this horrifying war!

Using the closing words from Abe, `so that they will not have died in vain` says enough, NO Damn casino on this hallowed ground.

W.R. `Bill` Rex Nam` era Vet, son of a 30 year Navy Boatswain Senior Chief in the South Pacific, and Korea, BMC of The 7th Fleet Flagship the US Detroit 4 stack heavy Cruiser.

When you begin to lose respect for those who died, then, it is YOU who have Lost!!!!

see comments from former page

I would like to express my comments about the casino that is trying to come to Gettysburg. I am **TOTALLY AGAINST** the idea that someone wants to build a casino in Gettysburg. To me, its a slap in the face to every man, woman, and child who died during the civil war if you allow a casino to be built there. To me, a casino would desecrate the very ground where our fellow americans died so that we could be free. Casinos represent all that is bad and evil and would tarnish what the civil war was all about. Casinos bring in illegal gambling, prostitution, drinking, and destroy the family values that weve died trying to protect all thru our history. Gettysburg is sacred hallowed ground that represents all of america. A casino destroys tet family value system weve fought so hard to maintain. A casino represents a small percentage of our fellow americans who dont stand for those basic family values. **PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW THE CASINO TO BE BUILT ON SUCH ALLOWED GROUND.. WE HAVE ENOUGH OF THOSE ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE U.S.A. PLEASE .**

Name: **jeffrey cooke** State: **pa** County: **adams** ID: **1287** RegID: **1420**

Please do not license a casino near Gettysburg. I believe this will ruin our heritage tourism and keep tourists from spending their money in downtown businesses. This is a small town to bring families with small children to learn from it`s history. Thank You for your support of No Casino Gettysburg.
Sincerely, Jeff & Sharon Cooke

This Casino will be detramenal to the Gettysburg Battlefield. I am a Disabled Veteran and served my counrty until I became totalally disabled and this is something that is more valuable than money. These Soldiers who fought and died need to be remembered and not disrespected by putting a casino there and one should NEVER even be considered

I have lived in Adams county all my life. I believe that this resort would provide many good paying jobs to a community that needs them very badly. There really are no down sides that I can see. The resort has already been in place for years and is far enough away from the historic battlefields.

Name: **Lynette King** State: **PA** County: **Adams** ID: **1292** RegID: **1425**

It seems inappropriate to place a gambling facility so close to what this nation considers sacred ground.

Putting a casino in the Gettysburg area didn't make any sense on the last attempt and it still doesn't. Casinos have their place and can be contributors to the state coffers. However, that place is not in the rural setting of historic Gettysburg, Adams County and I strongly oppose any efforts to establish one here.

Name: **SUSANNA L. BOEHS** State: **PA** County: **PENNSYLVANIA** ID: **1294**
RegID: 1427

I support the Mason-Dixon Resort Project for Gettysburg, Adams County PA. This area desperately needs this type of project to encourage upscale, well-planned business opportunity growth.

The proposed casion would be a much needed economic boost for Adams County and Cumberland Township. Adams County has not been immune to the economic woes that currently exist in our state/country. This project is supported by the vast majority of Adams County residents, the Cumberland Township Board of Supervisors, the Adams County Commissioners, the Adams County Chamber of Commerce and the largest preservation group in the nation, to name but a few. No one has a more vested interest in the Gettysburg National Military Park than the residents of this county, and they have demonstrated their ability to realize how the proposed casino and the park can co-exist to the benefit of each other. I strongly encourage the PA Gaming Control Board to give careful consideration to the wishes of Adams County residents and to approve Mason Dixon Resorts license request. Thank-you

I have visited Gettysburg five times. I've walked the battlefield, attended the 140th anniversary re-enactment, taken an individual tour of the field with an NPS guide. I'm a member of Friends of Gettysburg, the Civil War Preservation Trust, and Camp Tippecanoe Civil War Roundtable here in Indiana.

Many men from my state fought and died at Gettysburg. The 19th of the famed Iron Brigade. The 20th in the Wheatfield. The 27th in a hopeless charge on July 3 against a strong rebel position below Culp's Hill.

I am unalterably opposed to a casino anywhere near where those brave men gave their lives for the unity of our nation. Some things are so antithetical to what is, for me, the most honored site in America, that they simply don't belong.

Please put the casino somewhere else. While I may return to Gettysburg even with a casino there, I solemnly promise I will never patronize it, and might even make a special trip to Gettysburg to picket it, if such a thing were to take place.

YOU ARE THE CARETAKERS who are responsible for maintaining the dignity of the ground that President Lincoln knew had already been consecrated. Do the right thing. I know it takes courage. If you need inspiration, put yourself in their place on July 1, 2, and 3, 1863. You'll find it there.

Please don't allow a casino near the hallowed ground of the Gettysburg Battle Field..
The battle of Gettysburg helped to free slaves. Don't allow the poor to become slaves to gambling especially in close proximity to a national treasure.

Gettysburg is a historial, hallowed ground, not a place for gambling. You wouldn`t put a casino in or at ground zero in New York would you?

I am so very opposed to the building of a casino this close to the battlefield. Over the last 30 years so many people have spent huge amounts of time and money to try to better consecrate this ground by REMOVING blatant commercialism and now in one swoop, the proposed casino will turn the area into a `Gambling Disneyland` in a heartbeat. Why did we bother removing the garish observation tower near the new Visitor`s Center if we are just going to turn around and do something like this? Does the battlefield already not attract enough visitors such that you need to attract even more? Put the casino in a place that deserves economic/tourist development moreso than Gettysburg!

I shudder to think of the flashing lights on the slot machines with titles such as `Seminary Slots,` or `Barksdale`s Blackjack.` Not to mention that cozy, smokey bar/lounge named `Devil`s Den`

Abraham Lincoln in his Gettysburg Address said: : The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract` Many people over the years have worked hard to `add` to this consecration.....a casino will hugely and irreversibly `detract` from the very same. What are you thinking?

I regularly come to Gettysburg, but if this casino goes in I will never return and will choose instead to go to more appropriate locations nearby like Antietam, Bull Run and the Shenendoah Valley.

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I regularly come to Gettysburg, but if this casino goes in I will never return and will choose instead to go to more appropriate locations nearby like Antietam, Bull Run and the Shenendoah Valley.

I have visited Gettysburg many times and have brought my family and grandchildren to this historic site.

How can our future American youth appreciate what America has done for freedom with a bright-lighted casino so close to the hallowed ground.

I won't return with my family if you build a casino a half mile away. Build it five or ten miles away.

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Name: **Martin D. Jones** State: **UK** County: **Cheshire** ID: **1314** RegID: **1441**

Please do NOT license Mason Dixon Casino or a casino anywhere near Gettysburg. I am a UK citizen one of many that are shocked to hear that a site that is not only of fundamental importance to the USA but is considered a landmark in world history. The citizens of the USA are world leaders in Historical preservation and are admired the world over for this work. This Casino would be a blot on this site. This is not just a local issue People around the world will be watching the PGCB to see if it is driven by Patriotism or Dollars. Please make the right decision

Name: **Michael A. Naliborski** State: **MD** County: **Frederick** ID: **1315** RegID: **1445**

Please do NOT license Mason Dixon Casino or a casino anywhere near Gettysburg.

I am unable to attend the hearing at the time allotted on 8/31/10 to voice my comments on the proposed gaming facility in Adams County. I simply wish to express that I am wholeheartedly opposed to the proposed gaming license being awarded to Mason-Dixon Resorts, or any other gaming facility that is proposed to be located in Gettysburg, PA.

Dear PA Gaming Board,

I strongly oppose any Casino. Gambling destroys people and families. It become an addiction and everything spirals downhill from there. Please, please, do not allow a Casino in Adams County! Protect our families, not ruin them.

Thanks you.

Thank you for the opportunity to register this comment. I feel that the proposal to bring a casino to our community has impact on defining the culture of our community. Those of us who have chosen to live in a small, relatively rural community have done so in many cases because of the type of community that it is. We did not choose to live in a community that housed a casino. And we do not choose to sit back and allow changes to occur that move the direction of the community in a way that is not of our choosing. I urge you to reject this application on behalf of the citizens of Gettysburg who have no other legal means to defeat this attempt to bring this unwelcome change.

As both a land owner and a business owner in Adams County, as well as an historian, my position is that there is intrinsic value in the protection of the battlefield view-shed and surrounding area from the types of businesses and development that detracts from our already strong industries of agriculture and tourism. There is no doubt that the tourism industry in our county is based almost entirely on Gettysburg National Military Park. The significance of our collective heritage and sense of posterity that millions equate with this country`s largest and most visited military park stands as testament against what modern man deems entertainment. There is enough of what detracts from the importance of our country`s experience during that climatic time. Moreover, in these trying times, to take away from that focus, which serves the livelihood of hundreds, even thousands of Adams Countians, would only add insult to injury as we move forward. To many, this area is a hallowed ground, indeed it harbors our very first National Cemetery and in the coming decades such landmarks and preserved ground will be even more greatly needed, undeterred by the mere frivolity that a gambling facility offers. Let some other area have such a facility, especially if it is already in sync with what that area offers to visitors. This proposed slot facility will only take away from the importance of what we have to offer, and shake the foundations of our economy on several levels, first and foremost alienating many who make regular pilgrimage to this phenomenal ground. Please vote not to grant Mason-Dixon Resorts, LP, the right to develop their slot facility here. Thank you, from me, and literally millions of other Americans.

I am a reenactor who visits Gburg on a regular basis. I am female and travel alone. I will not come to town during bike week, as I am concerned for my safety. Just this past weekend, I participated in a living history at the PA monument. I spent 4 days in town - spending money on a hotel, resturants, typical tourist tours, and what nots to bring home - easily \$500. I do this 2-3 times a year, as do scores of other reenactors. I hate the traffic on the main streets through town and drive the alleys to avoid it. That said... I lived in NJ when the Casions were built in Atlantic City. The depressed city was promised it would reap the benefits from casino taxes. They only things they were rewarded with were a higher crime rate and continued poverty. The city is still as depressed, dirty, and scary as it was before the casions were built. The guarantees of better schools and more jobs were empty promises. Jobs available to the locals were mostly service jobs. Traffic has increased, which Gburg really cannot afford. Casinos attract tourists, who generally stay, eat and spend money only at the casinos, which will hurt the already fragil economy of Gburg. Casinos will also attract every kind of blood-sucking vermin into town. Muggings, robberies, rapes, prostitution, and violent crimes with weapons have increased in Atlantic City - this will be Gburg`s fate. Is this the way to honor those who gave their lives for their country? Would a casino built next to Arlington Cemetery be tolerated? I think not. If PA wants another casino, move it far away from the hallowed ground of Gburg.

As an annual visitor to Gettysburg over the past several years, I implore the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board to choose another location for a casino. Gettysburg is a place of national historic importance. To sully the area with a casino seems inappropriate and short-sighted. Please keep the battlefields and surrounding land peaceful and undisturbed by an unnecessary gambling business. We should continue to honor the soldiers who gave their lives in pursuit of our great nation by maintaining the integrity of the land surrounding the Battle of Gettysburg. Thank you for your consideration.

I am a history teacher who is also a reenactor/living historian. I wish to urge you to vote against the proposed casino in Gettysburg, PA. I believe the ground, as President Lincoln stated, is hallowed. A casino would simply be a blight on land over which the brave men on both sides fought. There are plenty of locations for casinos that are not adjacent to national military parks. Gettysburg is a family/historical community that would be helped in no way through the building of a casino. It can't be undone. You have been entrusted to vote in the best interest of our state. If you have ever walked the streets of the beautiful town with your family you have undoubtedly noticed that Gettysburg is a special place. It is not in the best interest of Pennsylvania, Gettysburg, or the people in the nation or world to have a casino on the border of this sacred place. ... Please do NOT license Mason Dixon Casino or a casino anywhere near Gettysburg`

I join all those who care about preserving historic Gettysburg in opposing the Mason-Dixon Resorts Casino.

As a Fairfield homeowner and a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects, I chose to purchase a home in the Gettysburg area because of its rich history and its commitment to preservation. We have been very happy with our choice and have found the community to be welcoming, friendly, wholesome, and extremely proud of its important historic heritage.

Gettysburg is nationally recognized as a cultural icon: thousands of visitors visit the Gettysburg area each year not only to visit the battlefield, but to roam its beautiful countryside and marvel at the stone farmhouses, barns, covered bridges, and churches that have been lovingly maintained for over 200 years. Stepping into Gettysburg's past even for an afternoon provides a visually rich and emotionally restorative experience that is increasingly difficult to find in rural America.

Introducing a casino use into this quiet, historic setting would be woefully inappropriate and would destroy Gettysburg's identity as one of the nation's best preserved historic areas. The gambling culture is incompatible with qualities of life currently enjoyed in Gettysburg, and commercial growth around the casino will inevitably include bars, liquor stores, and other businesses catering to the gaming crowd that will compromise the historic environment and alter Gettysburg's way of life. There is great risk that a casino would overshadow Gettysburg's value as a historic destination, curbing tourism or at the very least, worsening the heritage tourist's cultural experience. Since Gettysburg currently depends economically on heritage tourism, reducing its historic appeal could result in a net loss of revenue for the county, even with a casino.

For these reasons, we urge that the Casino be placed elsewhere in the state so that it does not harm Gettysburg's historic integrity and value to the heritage tourist, in effect killing the goose that lays the golden egg. Please let Gettysburg remain what it is: one of the most important and well-preserved historic areas America -- an ideal place not only to visit, but to live.

Thank you.

Name: **Mary L. Redding**

State: **PA**

County: **Adams**

ID: **1350**

RegID: **1477**

I oppose the licensing of a casino in or near Gettysburg, PA. Gettysburg is a cultural heritage site. It is a place to give deep thought to how we can avoid the horrors of war. Gettysburg is not the place to give deep thought to gaming odds in a casino.

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Name: **Lloyd Reaver** State: **Pa** County: **Adams** ID: **1367** RegID: **1503**

I support the Adams County/Mason-Dixon Resorts because I believe it will bring jobs to our community. Also, Mr. LeVan has always had first-class business.

To put a casino near Gettysburg Battlefield is to desecrate the honor and memory of those who died there! Families and tourists who visit the battlefield are there to honor our heroes. Atlantic City and other gambling facilities are within a reasonable distance for those who are seeking for that type of entertainment. There are other opportunities for corporate America to gain revenue than to destroy the peace, tranquility, and beauty of the Gettysburg area.

Common sense and respect **MUST** prevail! I strongly urge you not to approve the building of a casino in Gettysburg. **PLEASE SAVE OUR HISTORY.**

I have two points I would like to make to the Board:

First, if you feel you must consider comments from outside Adams Co., I recommend you weigh them very carefully. Since the last application for Gettysburg I have talked with a lot of people from around the country who opposed and favored it.. The vast majority were quite surprised to learn where it was actually going to be located. In other words, they were either ill-informed or misled.

Second, the National Park Service and the Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association (which has preserved 2000 acres of the Battlefield in the last 50 years) have both publicly stated that the Mason Dixon Resort and Casino will have no impact on the battlefield. Therefore, any argument for or against it which cites the Gettysburg Battlefield as justification should be considered invalid.

I am a lifelong resident of Gettysburg, PA. The casino will be destructive to the Gettysburg National Military Park. the number of tourists will decrease. Gettysburg is a family tourism destination. It is a learning experience for how men fought, were wounded and died for their beliefs. A casino here would be a desecration and blight on this cultural heritage community.

To All Those Present;

Would you support a casino to be built at Ground Zero in Manhattan ? Would you support a casino to be built over or adjacent to Arlington Natonal Cemetary ? No.

Why then in the name of good sense, would you want to build a casino, a resort, or a shopping mall on or adjacent to any part of Gettysburg National Park and battlefield? So much precious American blood was shed on these hallowed grounds in order to reunite America during a most critical time in our history when our country was split apart by a devastating civil war ! I cannot believe that American citizens would condone and support such an unpatriotic action. Has greed for the `all mighty dollar` clouded your vision to the extent that you are blind as to the disrespect for human death, suffering and ultimate sacrifice as well as the devastation it will have on the preservation of these precious historical grounds, that you would seriously consider such a proposal ? There must be another location available to you, which could recycle an existing vacant lot or structure and better a community`s tax base, and otherwise improve a city`s viability instead of trespassing on history, and burying it under a casino. This just makes me ill to think of how this casino will cheapen the affect of the history of our nation and the area of Gettysburg National Park and battlefields for future visitors to these sites, when one is trying to impress the significance of the area`s history upon our children. It is not OK to bulldoze our history under, and pretend it did not happen. You must not allow this to happen ! We would be telling our children that history is not important, history has a much more powerful effect, when you can walk the same grounds,breathe the same air, see the same sights as those who came before us did. How can we do this with all of the noise blaring and the `neon lights` of the casino disturbing the peace and respect that should be given these grounds. If we allow this casino to be built, we would be selling our national history for `thirty pieces of silver`. Please consider your action carefully, the fate of history and future generations weigh heavily upon your decision.

On September 17, 1863 Sgt. William Wood Coe, a name that my father and I also carry, passed from this world due to wounds suffered on July 2, 1863 on the field of battle at Cemetery Hill, Gettysburg, PA. He, like thousands of others like him on both sides, fought and died over the 3 days of the Battle of Gettysburg for a cause they believed in. We should not diminish their valor by allowing the shadow of a casino to fall over those fields.

Amos Gladney was 17 years old when he entered Gettysburg Pennsylvania. He signed up for the Army believing in his cause and the country he was fighting for.

On July 2, 1863 - Amos was killed in battle. He left behind a family that grieved for him and was never able to bring his body home for a proper funeral. His final resting place is somewhere on the Gettysburg Battlefield.

Many people from all over the world come to Gettysburg due to its historical significance. They will not come there to gamble. Heritage tourists are interested in the history of the area. Let`s do more to promote this industry to help the Adams County residents and store owners.

Gettysburg is sacred land and a National Treasure. Please...please - let`s not destroy it with a casino.

Please don`t let Amos` death or any of the other brave men on this battlefield be cause for a `Rebel Yell` slot machine or a `High tide cocktail` in any casino much less on on sacred ground.

Name: **Matthew S. Trostel** State: **PA** County: **Adams** ID: **1411** RegID: **1549**

I work in Cumberland Township, Adams County, PA and support a casino because it is a legal business under PA state law. I believe that it will bring tax relief and jobs to an area that could benefit from its unique draw. I do not believe that Gettysburg Battlefield will be negatively impacted.

I SUPPORT a casino in Adams County!

Name: **erin e. aubrey** State: **pa** County: **adams** ID: **1414** RegID: **1552**

I completely support the casino coming to gettysburg.

Gettysburg is already a tourist attraction, why not build on that base and draw more people and dollars to this area.

I support the casino here in Adams County. I am the parent of a 10-year-old, and my other children have sought or are seeking jobs elsewhere. I want better job opportunities, and a better local economy for Adams County families. The casino will spearhead an economic turnover for us.

I have loved the battlefield since I was in 5th grade and have wanted to live here all my life, but we cannot survive economically without this casino!

Name: **Greg Plank** State: **Pa** County: **Adams** ID: **1437** RegID: **1578**

We, Greg`s Automotive Repair, support and are in favor of the Adams county/Mason-Dixon Resorts Casino.

As a member of the Loudoun County Civil War Round Table in Leesburg, Virginia I oppose the concept of a Casino in the vicinity of the town of Gettysburg, PA. I feel that an establishment of this type would damage the reputation of both the town and the histoic battlefield which I so much enjoy visiting. I do not want to see the heritage of the town and the battlefield cheapened by such an establishment. This is not the type of business that I feel is appropriate for such an important historical site in our nations heritage. Again I am againt the establishment of a casino in the Gettysburg, PA. area.

Sincere regards,

Robert E. Miller, Jr.

We own 4 businesses in the Borough of Gettysburg and are about 3 miles from the proposed casino site. I work 50 hours a week, we are open 7 days a week and I have spoken with hundreds of our customers -- tourists, PA residents and Adams Co. residents. Not ONE of them favors this casino. Most people are appalled at the very idea, many have told me they would not return if it is approved. I don't care if it would bring jobs or lower taxes, something I very much doubt to begin with. It will destroy our vibrant community and our heritage tourism. PA is a big state -- PUT IT SOMEWHERE ELSE!

A Casino will be good for the community in general.

I oppose a casino at Mason-Dixon Resorts, LP in Adams County. This location is much too close to the hallowed ground of the Gettysburg battlefield and the Gettysburg monuments and historic sites. Americans and visitors from all over the world now come to Gettysburg and its environs to learn and appreciate the history and lessons from this crucial period in American history, and to honor the brave soldiers who fought here. A casino would cheapen and degrade that experience for visitors and residents alike.

Name: Fred Faulk **State: Pa** **County: Adams** **ID: 1480** **RegID: 1629**

I support Adams County/Mason Dixon Resort Casino!

Name: **Rob Owen** State: **PA** County: **York** ID: **1481** RegID: **1631**

I do support the Mason-Dixon Resort and
casin

I would like to refute the claim made by Mason Dixon Resorts that their proposed business endeavor does not fall within the battlefield at Gettysburg. While it may be literally true that the site is not within the confines of the GNMP, it is also true that in war there are no fences. Just because the site in question sits outside the confines of the Park, doesn't mean men didn't die on that site. Men fought for our freedom there just as they are fighting today for our freedom on foreign soil.

I don't oppose a casino in Adams County, I oppose a casino in Gettysburg. I feel a casino at Gettysburg to be as offensive as a casino at Ground Zero.

Ever since I was ten years old,I've been a civil war buff and have visited the Gettysburg battlefield on many occasions. Every time I've stood at Devil's Den , Little Round Top,Cemetery Ridge, etc. I'm in awe of the raw courage and sacrifice that both sides exhibited during the three days of battle. To build a casino anywhere near the battlefield is a travesty and a blatant sign of disrespect to those who fought and died here. What message are we sending the youth of our country? Does economic gain outweigh national pride, respect, and dignity? I THINK NOT!!!!

Name: **jackie martin**

State: **il**

County: **will**

ID: **1489**

RegID: **1646**

There have got to be other locations for your beloved casino, don't spit on the precious, honorable, silenced graves of those that sacrificed for YOUR misguided souls. Get a grip guys, look at the reality of the situation, not the greed which is the SOLE reason for this development. Please, GET OUT OF TOWN!!!!

First, let me implore you to reject the Mason/Dixon casino license.
I firmly believe that having a casino in Gettysburg would reduce our quality of life.

Anytime that a casino is placed in a community, there is a risk of individuals becoming addicted to gambling. Gambling addiction is very real and very destructive to families, as well as, the community. People lose their homes, their families and their self respect. It is an insidious disease.

In addition to the risk of forming an addiction, gambling in a casino can only add to the financial hardship that our county is facing. While Mr. LeVan and Mr. Lashinger tout the benefit of more jobs for Adams County, they also have stated that over 59% of their revenue will be coming from those same residents. How can this possibly improve residents financial problems?

Thank you for holding these hearings so you can hear both sides of this divisive issue.
It divided our county years ago, and is doing so once again, pitting neighbor against neighbor. Hopefully this will be the last time, as you deny Mason Dixon`s application.

Claire L. Lewis

Councilor

Gettysburg Borough Council

Gettysburg, PA

As a former county commissioner (of 14 years) the the former president of Gettysburg Borough Council, I would like to express my opposition to the proposed gaming enterprise. It is very close to the battlefield and will detract from the historicity and the solemnity of this field of very great sacrifice. Also, given the very poor state of land use and zoning law in the Commonwealth and in Cumberland Township in particular, it will endanger the integrity of the battlefield with growth that is parasitic on the resort development.

The gaming resort is a highly inappropriate use for this community, which in its entirety is a part of the battlefield. Imagine what President Eisenhower or President Kennedy would have thought of this proposal. It is simply inappropriate.

As a long time public official I know that we could not control the negative ramifications of development like this. I also believe it could well end up costing more in services than in the proceeds returned to the community. But these are ancillary arguments. The primary issue is the inappropriateness of the development relative to the great battlefield that we are responsible for safe-keeping.

Name: **Daniel L. Smith** State: **PA** County: **Adams** ID: **1506** RegID: **1668**

I WISH TO BE A SPEAKER. But if that isn't allowed at this point . I would like to add my voice to the volley of others in support of Mason Dixon Resort. I feel it would be a wonderful assets to the local communities ,county as well as the Commonwealth.

To the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board,

I am writing to urge you to deny placing a casino in the area of Gettysburg, hallowed ground in our nation`s history. I have visited the battlefield several times, and recently have had the privilege to visit the new visitor`s center and the David Wills house as well as attend the reenactment.

I am a native of Lancaster County with family dating back to the 1700s in our great Commonwealth. I am also a great great grandson of Samuel T. Mickey, leader of the North Carolina 26th regiment`s band who was at the Battle of Gettysburg. As you may know, the 26th North Carolina regiment took part in Pickett`s charge as well as other action and suffereed heavy losses. The band members cared for the wounded while not playing.

I strongly believe that Gettysburg should retain its current character as a town known primarily for the battlefield and related historical sites. A casiono would inevitably take attention away from these sites and alter the character of the surrounding area, as we all know that casinos do change the atmosphere of an area. There are plenty of other areas in Pennsylvania which do not have the unique status of Gettysburg which can be considered for a casino.

I urge you to deny this license and keep Gettysburg`s current unique character, history and status intact. Future generations of Pennsylvanians and Americans will thank you for doing so.

Sincerely,
Richard L. Campbell Jr.
Cochranville, PA

There can hardly be a ground more hallowed for Americans than that at Gettysburg, nor a place more unsuitable for a gaming hall. Where Lincoln immortalized those who gave the last full measure for our Republic should not be made a lesser place now, demeaned by the worst sort of commercial endeavor. To be somewhat crass about it - Lincoln would roll over in his grave to see a gaming hall built on the very border of what he knew to be `this Hallowed Ground.` Don`t let it happen/

To whom it may concern:

I write to you in support of the proposed Mason Dixon casino project to be housed in Adams County, PA. It is imperative for the economic progress of Adams County that Mason Dixon be awarded the license to revitalize the Eisenhower Conference center, creating jobs in the revitalization process and then on-going employment for hundreds of individuals once the facility has opened.

There are many reasons why the casino would be a perfect fit for the struggling community that is Adams County. Not the least of which is much needed life support for the local economy. It is my hope that the PGCB will see fit to repair the some of the long term economic damage that was done when the federal government made the decision to include souvenir sales and a restaurant into the \$125 million state of the art visitor center they recently opened. This move by the federal government undercut the already struggling economy of the town of Gettysburg by relieving visitors of any incentive to patronize the small business' in town. The visitor center strikes while the iron is hot and entices visitors to make their purchases prior to departing the facility. All one needs to do is walk through the Steinweir Ave area of Gettysburg to see that the small businesses of Gettysburg struggle, more now than before the new visitors center.

It is no secret that heritage tourism is not what it once was, there is no speculation when one states that visitation to the area is down. We need something that will bring new visitors to the area, they can come for the casino and stay for the National Park!

There are not a lot of prospects for businesses to move to Adams County, this casino will provide a unique opportunity to entice individuals who would not normally make the trip to Gettysburg and it will bring them back again and again! The casino applicants have expressed their commitment to work with the area businesses get their customers out and in to the community not only spending their money, but also taking advantage of what the national park has to offer. There is no reason not to take this commitment as fact, because of Mr. LeVan's proven track record of philanthropic support for the town, it is now and has always been his home. This is a win, win opportunity for the county and its residents.

Prosperous businesses will bring more and more jobs, more and more jobs will bring much needed tax relief. The county will have access to funds to pour more money in to the services they provide, including social services and schools. There is no down side to the prospect of a winning business in the Eisenhower location, which is presently decaying and drastically underperforming. The casino will take a once beautiful property and make it prosperous and beautiful again. If this project does not happen who knows when another opportunity to make the ghost town that presently is Eisenhower into a thriving, prosperous business which is also a contributing part of the Adams County community.

While I am not a full time resident of Gettysburg, I am a person who drives to a home there each and every weekend of the year. I drive the 85 miles each way every opportunity I can because I love Adams County and everything it stands for. The people are wonderful and they deserve every opportunity to make good lives for their families, the casino will assist in that for many deserving members of this community who may not have many other options. The casino will provide opportunities for jobs so that people who may otherwise leave the county in search of employment will be able to stay. I am not only talking about the jobs at the casino, but all of the outside community businesses that will be revitalized through the supportive services the casino wil require, florists, caterers, landscapers, food suppliers and so

many others. If this business is allowed to be built in Adams County, there are many others that will come with it.

PLEASE give Adams County the opportunity to have a thriving economy; the people of the County deserve it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely, Erin Long

I've lived in Gettysburg all my life. I love and respect the battlefield and what it stands for but the casino is something that the residents of Adams County need and deserve. The only affect that this casino will have on Gettysburg and the battlefield will be more profit. The casino will bring in more tourist because there will be two major tourism sights instead of one. I also believe that being a quadriplegic and having limited job potential, the casino could bring more hope to the disabled that can't find jobs now. There is no reason that Gettysburg battlefield and Mason-Dixon resorts cannot work together to create a better financial atmosphere for Gettysburg and Adams County in this time of financial despair.

Thank you for an opportunity to share my opposition to a gambling environment in Gettysburg. The Gettysburg area businesses focus on the tourism interest for the historic battlefield. Add to that the cultural richness within a small town atmosphere and we have a winning family-oriented visitors choice. Interest from Civil War reenactors and car and motorcycle rallies alike gives Gettysburg a coveted preference for tourists and tourists` dollars. Gettysburg Festival showcases enviable entertainment and culinary choices for all in the area and visitors enjoying the events. The introduction of a gambling casino will divert business dollars to the gambling casino owners and seriously limit the current mix for Gettysburg businesses. If the proposed gambling casino is approved, Gettysburg businesses lose revenue and resulting profit.

Another aspect is the toll of some families from addictive aspects of gambling. Local people are expected to be the greatest number for visiting the proposed casino and will bear the burden of financial losses that compulsive gamblers traditionally suffer. Generally a compulsive gambler represents a family that suffers financially with the gambler. Suffering families are not what Gettysburg needs.

Some jobs may be offered to the Adams County residents. Those jobs are likely low paying and part-time jobs that give little back to the community. The structure of funds coming back to Gettysburg and Adams County would not adequately fund for the additional expenses. Expenses should be considered in highway or road maintenance and improvement and police, Fire and medical increases to meet the safety and security aspects of a casino.

I will not likely be a customer in a casino here in Gettysburg. I doubt it would have any positive value to friends and family. Please do not approve this casino in Gettysburg.

Dear Gaming Officials and Elected Representatives,

I would like to voice my extreme opposition with the idea of issuing a gaming license to Mason-Dixon Resorts, LP.

I want to be perfectly clear and assure everyone it is not sentiment directed towards Mason-Dixon Resorts as a whole, just against their decision to place this casino close to the Gettysburg National Military Park. The destruction of our (meaning all americans) national parks come in different ways. This is just another way to slowly desicrate another national park. I would support this casino if it was placed in, lets say mummasburg, abbottstown or in a place adjacent to Gettysburg, and I would probably even go patronize the establishment on a vacation to GNMP. The point being, that close to the GNMP desecrates the very land that helped to save this nation. May I remind everyone of you that in the late 19th century a casino and dance hall was located close to the battlefield and eventually became a sight for prostitution and other disgusting activities. It is my opinion that you, the gaming board, are directly responsible to take into consideration the various components to which the site is intended. I think, for that very reason you CANNOT allow this casino at this location, based on the historical nature of the park and the close proximety to that very land. Desicration comes in many different means, high traffic, unsitely buildings, 24 hour per day noise and lights near a scenic place. Gettysburg is one of the most scenic military parks we have left. I feel it is your direct responsibility to protect it for our children and our children`s children. You, as a board, whether or not you value history, can help maintain a pleasant atmosphere for all to enjoy, for the years to come at Gettysburg National Military Park. And there-in lies one of the greatest reasons tourists from all over the nation come to visit Gettysburg National Military Park, the beautiful scenary, pleasant atmosphere and respect for what happened there, NOT A CASINO!!!!

Commissoners,

At a time when we desperately need to recall our nation`s past and remembers its hero`s, you are about to decide whether to grant license for Mason-Dixon Resorts to build a casino on ground where hero`s walked. The Civil War, the Battle of Gettysburg, these are events that shaped our nation and may well have, as President Lincoln said, given us a `new birth of freedom`. The men who fought and died here deserve more than to be remembered as Meade`s slot machines, Lee`s roulette and Hood`s 5 card stud. I`ve been to Gettysburg many times, have brought my children as well. While there is commercialization abound, i.e. Pickett`s buffet and others, a casino is just wrong here. If you were to approve this application you would condeming this portion of our history to the dustpin of time. Local businesses will not be able to survive. Why would someone travel into downtown Gettysburg for a t-shirt when you can pick one up at the casino gift shop. Visit a battlefield in November when its chilly? Nah, we`ll just watch it on the big screen tv in our comfy room at the casino. Maybe if its over quickly we can get down to that neat game downstairs, Chamberlin`s Chance. Spin the wheel, win a prize.

Commissioners, I can understand the lure from the promise of an economic boom in these troubled times. But this is not and can not be the answer. The eyes of the past and the hopes of the future are looking to you.

Thank you for your time

Michael Maybaum

Name: **Gladys Horvath** State: **ky** County: **Jefferson** ID: **1517** RegID: **1677**

The Gettysburg Battlefield is one of America`s most historical sites. As a native of Pennsylvania, I have great respect and affection for the history of the Keystone State. I hope that the casino will not be built so close to Gettysburg. Please find a location somewhere near the intersection of major highways where there is no history or scenery to spoil.

I do not oppose having a casino in Adams County, but the proposed location for this casino is just too close to what so many Americans consider sacred ground. Yes, in these bad economic times it is important that we create jobs and bring money into the region, but short term problems such as a weak economy should never trump the importance of preserving the integrity of such a revered place for generations to come.

Has anyone from the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board ever considered another consequence of locating this casino so close to the proximity to the battlefield? The old argument that it's not on battlefield ground I'll agree is a valid one. But the continuance of the argument that it will not affect the battlefield patrons is rather lame and a bit dangerous. I remember one of the selling points to the popularity for this casino would be the 24/7 gambling being allowed with alcoholic refreshments being served to its patrons. That right there in itself is a deadly cocktail, a volatile concoction for a horrific mixture. Unless every gambling patron is chaperoned and corralled back to their rooms when it's determined they've had enough, there is nothing stopping any one of them from getting in their vehicle in an altered state of mind and proceeding north towards plenty of walking tourist enjoying their day at the battlefield.

You can argue they could come from any bar in town and do the same thing, but the masses of bodies, the percentages, and the laws of average with the indulging in such activity can not be even remotely compared to this scenario. And with its proximity so close, unfortunately I fear the worst will eventually be the inevitable, and lord only knows what the inevitable outcome may be concluded from such a catastrophic event if it occurs. Gettysburg will forever be scared with this black eye. Yet, for some strange reason there are people who deem it an absolute necessity to have this casino established anyway.

If this casino were located, say across Rt.15 and a few miles further away from the battlefield, and anyone who's indulged in the luxury of 24/7 gambling and fine spirits, it may perhaps have a possibility. But with this casino in too close a proximity to hundreds and perhaps thousands of heritage tourist attempting to digest all the nuances of this battle's events, and with a person or people only 1/2 or so miles down the road indulging in liquor while gambling for such long periods of time, then who will inevitably own up to a drunken driver coming from this casino and mowing down a Father, Mother, and perhaps small children while they are attempting to cross the road or any other alcoholic based scenario? My goodness, could anyone live with themselves if that ever happens? Is the hyperbole of all the inflated economic growth and tax relief this community will supposedly stand to gain be worth the potentials for the maiming or taking human life? Think too if it were someone from your family. It could only be a matter of time.

Emmetsburg Rd is already congested with a vast traffic volume during the peak season between tourist, locals, and local commerce. It's difficult enough for tourist attempting to reenact Pickett's Charge to cross this highly traveled road safely with driver are in theory sober and aware of their environment around them. Place someone in an altered state and tired in this particular stretch of highway that may not be fully cognizant of their surroundings, it's an accident being lured to happen.

It's truly an unfortunate episode in the history of Gettysburg. 147 years ago Gettysburg survived a horrendous 3 days of bloody conflict where over 150,000 soldiers contested over this crossroads village for its possession. After those 3 horrendous days of infamy brought to the borough of Gettysburg's front door, it was left in near ruin with thousands of dead soldiers and animals littering its fertile farm fields, 10's of thousands of maimed and wounded soldiers crowded into every nook and cranny, and the area surrounding this pristine little community mowed down like the summer harvest by thousands of artillery shells, and millions of bullets.

Now, 147 years into its future, this pristine little community is being thrust into the harbinger of another form of civil war for its possession of its crossroads. Yet, unlike that conflict which forever altered the fabric of this quaint little community 147 years past, this conflict is truly pitting neighbor against neighbor, father against son, mother against daughter, brother and sister against brother and sister. The lines of battle over this casino issue are being drawn in the sand right now as I write this. And too, unlike 147 years ago where the citizens of Gettysburg banded together to overcome this horrific shadow of the battles aftermath to give new life and a new beginning to this shell shattered community, this conflict will

have a long lasting, long standing residual affect, a perpetual bad taste in its mouth within this community that could forever overshadow anything this community has ever witnessed before.

The cost of the Civil War being brought to its front door will appear as a near side show event when everything is tallied up in relative comparison to the residual resentments that will linger on for many years on both sides of this issue. Whoever wins this contest in the long run, be it pro casino advocates or no casino advocates, will be the looser. As I said, thanks to a handful of individuals, this quaint little borough nestled at the foot of South Mountain will never be able to look at itself quite the same again. The dye has been cast for the blood of a slot machine. The color of this community could remain substantially altered so that it takes on the new color permanently or hopefully only semi permanently. 2 days of this issue being tossed to and fro only stands to reason this could perhaps open wounds within families and neighborhoods that may be years and even generations in the healing.

Recently, I was sitting in a waiting room in Camp Hill and started talking with a stranger there. I mentioned that I was from Gettysburg and they asked, "Are they really going to put a casino there? That is sacred ground." To that I'll add that I often attend conferences around the country where the name tags sport our name and location. People will look at mine and say, "Gettysburg, there is a lot of history there."

The point being made is that although the Gettysburg National Military Park is distinctly separate from the town, in the hearts and minds of the American people, the two are synonymous. Ask any school child. They may not know where it is but they know what it means. It's the Civil War and it is Abraham Lincoln. It's also Ike's home.

In his address, Lincoln said that we couldn't further "consecrate or hallow this ground" because "the brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract." Well, Abe, I don't agree. I think we can detract from it and are about to do just that because, unless we can snip off the southern tip of Cumberland Township and give it to Littlestown, the casino address will be: Mason Dixon Gaming Resort, 2634 Emmitsburg Road, Gettysburg, and with all the detraction that it connotes.

Name: **Ronald C. Shuey** State: **PA** County: **Cumberland** ID: **1525** RegID: **1686**

Please do not dishonor those who served here, by putting a casino on this `Hallowed Ground`.

I would like to voice my support for the Mason-Dixon Resort and Casino project. I have lived in Adams County for over 35 years and have dealt in some professional capacity with Adams countians for that period of time. Some of my involvement was in counselling families regarding many kinds of health care issues and also family issues I worked with a foster child for a total of 18 years and I can tell you that for families in Adams County to find jobs that can sustain a household has become increasingly more difficult. For this reason I believe that the casino would provide families that opportunity. Thanking you in advance for a favorable ruling on this casino project.

ECONOMICS OF THE PROPOSED CASINO

There is a gambling facility in Grantville, 45 minutes from Gettysburg.

There is also a gambling establishment in Charlestown, WV, 45 minutes from Gettysburg.

The Mason-Dixon project will make three gambling facilities within 45 minutes of each other.

It is also entirely possible that Maryland will open a casino in the not-too-distant future.

With the country in a severe (some say it may extend to a double-dip) recession, are we to believe that three gambling establishments this closely located are to be successful?

The laws of supply & demand dictate that too much supply (three casinos) and not enough demand (a soft economy) will doom the proposed Mason-Dixon casino to failure.

Dear Members of the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board

I thought this should be brought to someone's attention at the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board for review.

As you know this casino in Gettysburg has become a hotbed of contention between both the pro casino advocates and the no casino advocates. Each side has their own unique perspective as to whether or not his casino belongs in Gettysburg, or Cumberland Township, whichever you prefer. And as you too know, the Gettysburg Times has maintained a continual flow of information regarding this casino. In nearly every article presented by the Times there is also the addresses of an individual commentary section where readers are provided a forum in which to address the issue of the article. One article which appeared recently in the Times was labeled "Anti-casino analysis finds flaws in economic study." The article was in reference to a recent study concluded by the economic consultant Michael Siegel of Washington D.C. You may have already read the report and the article.

One thing I would like to address to you members of the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board though is the way in which certain individual(s) within the Mason Dixon Resort & Casino have become a bit verbally abusive towards individuals and/or organizations that are in opposition to this casino. Though the hostilities flow in either direction, everyone has the individual right, be it on the pro side, or the no side, to voice their opinion one way or the other about this issue. But when a spokesperson for the Mason Dixon Resort & Casino becomes verbally threatening towards individuals or organizations in opposition to this casino, that's, when it crosses the line of decency, and you should be made fully aware if it.

As I stated previously, the issue at hand is part of the article, "Anti-casino analysis finds flaws in economic study" in the GettysburgTimes.com forum. In it a member of the Mason Dixon Resort & Casino became a bit too much in chastising certain not for profits that appose this casino namely the U.S. Christian Commission (non-profit), The Lutheran Theological Seminary (non-profit), Adams Rescue Mission (non-profit), and, in the words of this individual representing the Mason Dixon Resort & Casino, "Are these non-profits risking their tax-exempt status by being listed as members of a business organization?" Also there is a continual abuse by this same individual directed constantly through this forum towards No Casino Gettysburg spokeswoman Susan Star Paddock. This is not first time this organization and individual has become verbally assaulting towards others they deem in opposition to their path of direction and directives, there have been numerous other occasions. And, I'm assuming this may perhaps be the prevailing attitude contained within the entire Mason Dixon Resort & Casino organization. It seems only obvious.

All I would like to know, is this form of behavior directed towards individuals and organization an acceptable behavior in this form of domain and atmosphere? Or does this form of threat towards non for profits who voice an opinion cross the line, and only amplifies hostilities?

If you have an opportunity I respectfully ask you take a moment and please read the article and judge for yourselves. I may have looked at it the wrong way.

Thank You

Respectfully Yours

Richard DeCarlo

Are you really going to allow money to be made on the backs of the men who fought and died in Gettysburg? There are times in our society that we **MUST** let common decency prevail and this is one of them. Allowing this Casino to open in Gettysburg is capitalism at its worse.

If you don't know the history of this hallowed ground **PLEASE PLEASE** read about it. If you know about it, there's no way you'll allow a casino to open so close to it. And if you're counting on the Gettysburg visitors to go there, they won't. It **WILL** be boycotted. Pennsylvania is a very large state. Certainly, there is another area where it can go that is more appropriate.

Please do the right thing and vote **NO!**

This is not right. There are other places this can be built. You can't perserve all history, but this is one of the most important fields of our nation.

Name: **Jered F. Specht** State: **OH** County: **Hamilton** ID: **1534** RegID: **1697**

This is one of the most important battle fields of our country. Let us show some respect.

This is one of the most important fields of our history, let us respect our past.

This is not right. One of the most important fields of our history this is not right.

This would take away from the park with too much traffic and wrong tourism.

Name: **Mary Wolfkill** State: **TN** County: **USA** ID: **1538** RegID: **1700**

Dishonoring the med who died in the battle. Not needed, go elsewhere.

Name: **David Wolfkill** State: **TN** County: **USA** ID: **1539** RegID: **1701**

As a veteran, I would not appreciate something built that close to a place that I fought for my country.

My family and I are Adams county residents. We strongly oppose the Mason-Dixon Resort. We feel that it would not improve our community but it would have an adverse effect to our community. We feel that having a casino located near a historical battlefeild where soldiers have lost their lives and been burried is not a respectfull way to honor them. I feel that it will cost our community more in funds, it will strain our resources,and it will also devalue our way of life. We feel that there are other locations that would be better suit for a casino. We would greatly appreciat the Gaming board denying the application for a gaming licence from the Mason-Dixon Resorts, LP. Thank you for taking the time to hear us on this matter.

Sincerely,

Mr. Peter Thompson

I respectfully request that you deny the gaming application of Mason-Dixon Resorts.

I am a former resident of Gettysburg and it is a place I visit frequently. It is truly one of the most important and treasured places in American history. Each stone, each monument, each building tells an amazing story of valor and sacrifice that illuminates our NATIONAL character. What happens in Gettysburg has a NATIONAL significance, and the community of Gettysburg and the state of Pennsylvania have a special duty to preserve and protect that battlefield for all Americans, past, present, and future.

A casino project anywhere in the community is inappropriate and disrespectful, but the specifics of the current Mason Dixon proposal is especially troubling. The site is less than a mile from the park boundary, which means this will bring unwelcome, undesirable, unattractive, sleazy development right on the very doorstep of the park. This is not in keeping with the rural landscape of that portion of the Gettysburg battlefield. Moreover, it will undoubtedly increase traffic on one of the park's major roads, which is a safety hazard for tourists and an impediment to their enjoyment of the park.

A recent independent analysis by Michael Siegal of Public and Environmental Finance Associates calls into question many of the claimed economic benefits of the project. I urge you to read his report carefully. We can not afford to gamble with the Gettysburg battlefield.

Mason-Dixon has repeatedly exaggerated the supposed benefits to the community while refusing to respect or acknowledge the deep-seated concerns of the community and of heritage tourists. Rather than meet their opponents in honest debate, they have frequently attempted to silence them (even threatening legal action to intimidate people from exercising their constitutional rights), or demonize them, or to dismiss their right to speak on the matter. One of their spokesmen was recently quoted in the media as saying that they don't care about the opinions of people from outside of Gettysburg. This is very disturbing when we are talking about one of our most important NATIONAL parks. It tells me that Mason-Dixon will not be a good neighbor to Gettysburg NMP and will not act with the good of the park and the entire community in mind. We cannot afford to have such an organization on the doorstep of the battlefield.

Governor Rendell has said that he would not want to see a casino project next door to the Liberty Bell and neither would he like to see one in Gettysburg. I agree. Visitors come to Gettysburg to study the battlefield, to pay their respects to the dead, to think about the meaning of citizenship and of freedom, and to teach their children about American history and values. What lesson will the Mason-Dixon casino teach our children about the significance of Gettysburg? What will it do to the historic character of the community? The impact of this casino will not be positive, and the losses both tangible and intangible will be significant.

If the historic character of Gettysburg is damaged then we will have failed to keep faith with the thousands of soldiers that here gave the last full measure of their devotion. And we will also put at risk the primary economic engine of the community: heritage tourism. We cannot afford to gamble with the Gettysburg battlefield.

As officers of the State of Pennsylvania, your highest duty and greatest responsibility is to safeguard its resources for future generations. To protect the historic battlefield of Gettysburg you must vote to deny the application of Mason-Dixon Resorts. We cannot afford to gamble with Gettysburg.

To Whom It May Concern,

Gettysburg, preserving the historical integrity of which is crucial to the telling of our nation`s story, is a sacred trust--not just for the citizens of Gettysburg itself, nor solely for Pennsylvanians, but for all Americans. Hallowed ground lies in Adams county, whether one likes it or not, and that can never be changed by any transient economic circumstances. Land plowed over can never be really restored, and we dishonor those who fought, suffered, or `gave the last full measure of devotion` there. The soul of a place, of a country, of a people is known and confirmed by what they hold fast to even in the most challenging of times. Let all Pennsylvanians, and all Americans be able to claim that they have kept the faith, and that the trust has been well-placed--that, as Lincoln exhorted Americans of that day had a responsibility to `the latest generation`, so we have one to our ancestors and to posterity.

Thank you.

Jeffrey J. Javid

We are moved to Gettysburg a few years ago because we loved the peacefulness, the beauty and the honesty of the community. Gettysburg is and always will be sacred ground, no one should have the right to take advantage of the this historical place for making of profit from the weakness of those who will gamble. This casino must be stopped in Gettysburg.

I believe that that the battlefield at Gettysburg is one of the most beautiful and culturally significant locations in the United States. On average, I travel from Bristow, Virginia at least once a year to Gettysburg. This year I visited Gettysburg and Adams County three times and will continue to visit the battlefield even if this beautiful and sacred land is desecrated by the casino. However, if the casino is built I will not my Virginia money in Gettysburg/Adams County.

I was just in Gettysburg yesterday (28 Aug) and I proved that could spend a fantastic nine hours in Adams County without spending a penny and supporting a single local business. In these tough times I honestly hate to say something like that, but quite frankly economics is what it has boiled down to. I was amazed by the number of local businesses that depend on tourists (like me) with signs supporting the casino. If the people of Adams County want a casino, then so be it. I will still visit, but my Virginia money will stay in Virginia.

If the casino is voted down then I will continue to support Adams County businesses as I did in late June of this year when I spent approximately \$70 (gas and Subway) at local business at the Rte15/Rte30 interchange while passing from NY to VA. I will also continue to bring visiting friends, like I did in mid-July when my two German visitors and I easily spent well over \$300 in food/drink/gas/books/sounvenirs in downtown Gettysburg.

I generally host several visiting international military officers each year and would love to continue to occasionally make the drive up to Gettysburg for some of them. However, I don't always make the drive to Gettysburg and we sometimes visit local Virginia, Maryland, or DC sites. They are always very appreciative of anywhere that I take them and it is infinitely easier for me to take them to Williamsburg, Antietam, Harpers Ferry, or the Smithsonian. However, I bring to Gettysburg because it such a special place in our country`s history. There is nothing special about a casino. So please keep that in mind when deciding to honor or desecrate the Gettysburg battlefield.

Sincerely,
John Schmitt

I urge the Gaming Board to deny the license for Mason-Dixon Resorts, based on the close proximity to the Gettysburg National Military Park. We tend to forget that the battle was not restricted within the boundaries of the Military Park, but fought throughout the Gettysburg area, likely including the proposed casino area itself.

Gettysburg is not only important as a reminder of the American Civil War, it is considered hallowed ground to people all around the world. The memory that soldiers fought and died on this hallowed land should be the first consideration in making a decision on this license.

In consideration of honoring the memory of the noble solidiers that fought that historic battle, and preserving the historic value of the battlefield and surrounding area, please deny this license.

Sincerely,

Annette T. Paluh
Pittsburgh, PA

Gentlemen:

My concerns are about the social aspects of having a casino in the Gettysburg area. The supporters like to say that the people who will be using the casino will be coming from a 30 mile radius of Gettysburg. This is a rural working class area. The hardship that gambling puts on a family leads to domestic problems, including child neglect. Money that should be used for food, clothing, and rent will be spent in the casino. The casino will put too much pressure on our police dept, public utilities, hospital ER, and congestion on our rural roads.

The attraction for more `private clubs` that are not desirable will increase. There will be more `Bike Week`

type activities, which has already proven to be a noise and safety problem. In spite of all of the promoters assurances - **THESE THINGS WILL HAPPEN!!!**

Thank You

I am the descendant of Civil War veteran James Cochran, a Pennsylvania volunteer who faced down Pickett`s charge at the battle of Gettysburg. Along with other family members, I have visited the battlefield and admired the peaceful, dignified way in which those who fought and died there are remembered. The presence of a nearby gambling casino would, I feel, desecrate the memory of men who courageously gave their lives for their country.

My name is Jeff Peterman, and I am an economic researcher and publisher by trade, including work in the international attendance dynamics field. I am also the publisher of americasbesthistory.com, a website that urges visitation and knowledge of our historic sites across the nation. But I am not going to testify today primarily on those two points. I do support the No Casino Gettysburg effort and think, both that the attendance dynamics of a casino coming to town will lower attendance at Gettysburg National Military Park, as well as harming the nature of the most important and historic small town in America, and believe that siting the casino in Gettysburg would be detrimental to the town. But I won't belabor those points to you. You have heard many fine and cogent arguments from those both no and pro casino men and women in other testimony. I am going to offer a simple postulate, one I would greatly appreciate you consider when thinking about whether to approve a casino in Gettysburg or at one of the other three applicant sites; Nemaquin, Fernwood, or Penn National Harrisburg.

Simply put, ... the decision will likely come down to these two considerations.

1) If the Pro Casino forces are correct and their proposal would not have harmed the tourism or historic nature of Gettysburg, but you place the casino at one of the other candidate locations, the state of Pennsylvania will recoup just as much in tax revenue, or more, plus create economic activity within the state, from any of the other three sites. Only the backers of the Gettysburg proposal will be harmed, and the residents of Pennsylvania will still gain the benefits of a casino located in another part of the state.

2) If the No Casino forces are correct, and the placement of a casino in Gettysburg causes harm to the community, the history, and the heritage tourism that already brings two to three million people to the area each year, then placement of a casino in Gettysburg will have caused the downfall of one of the best, if not the best, educational classrooms on American history in the United States, and harmed an already vibrant industry.

In a time when we all need to have our current and future generations remember the history and the values of the United States, why take the risk that the No Casino folks are correct. I would urge the board to place the casino in one of the other three locations, allow the state to profit from the tax revenues and economic activity there, and not chance harming the historic and special nature of the community of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

Jeff Peterman

As a citizen of Pennsylvania who values the sacrifices made at Gettysburg, I heartily oppose building a casino so close to these hallowed grounds. There are other ways to bring money into the community. There are plenty of other places to build casinos. It is already becoming a saturated market for gambling. Surely, we can maintain the integrity and quality of these lands better without casino money.
Thank you, Mary Kemler

1st comes gambling, then drug trafficking, money laundering and prostitution all will follow using the casino as a cover for these illegal activities!

I oppose the introduction of a casino into Adams County due to the significant side effects of such facilities. There is typically an increase in alcoholism, illegal drug use, traffic accidents, and prostitution because casinos attract risk-takers who gravitate toward high-risk activities.

The National Opinion Research Center (NORC) finds that there is likely to be an increase in problem gambling (pathological behavior) especially for persons living within a 50 mile radius of a casino.

www.communityresearchpartners.org/uploads/publications//Casino%2520Social%2520Effect%25201-21-10.pdf

I do not agree with a casino at Gettysburg. It is inappropriate to have a casino, now or at any time in the future, near Gettysburg due to the battle and Lincoln's Gettysburg address. `...but, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate, we can not consecrate, we can not hallow this ground. The brave men livng and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it , far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but IT CAN NEVER FORGET WHAT THEY DID HERE...` Gettysburg (the whole of it and what it represents) is much more than just a battle of many fought in the civil war. This was the turning point of the war. This battle effected not only our country but the future of the world.

Perhaps that sounds far fetched to you..but what if the United States ended up being the United States of America and the Confederate States of America. How would WWII ended? Where would our world be now?

Brave men from all over our country came here and fought in a battle that changed the world. The proposed casino owners are coming here to make money, to line their pockets.... at what expense? at whose expense? Local families dealing with additional problems of compulsive gambling and debt?

I know in my heart, without any doubt, that a casino is so wrong for Gettysburg.

Is Gettysburg going to be hallowed ground or shallow ground? I hope Hallowed.

Tina Gray
concerned citizen from Pennsylvania

This is hallowed ground where thousands of men laid down their lives. This would be a disgrace to the memory of these men. So many battlefields are being taken over by developers because of progress and greed. We **MUST** keep this most sacred location for our generations to come. **PLEASE** do not allow this to happen.

Although many people do not know history when they are young, an appreciation for history grows in a person like wisdom.

Destroying history may seem like the latest thing but it destroys who we are. Remembering the gift of our soldiers to us is important as is where they fought.

Please do not let historic sites be bulldozed down without a way to preserve that gift of freedom.

Dear Sirs:

I implore you not to grant permission to build any casino within 40 miles of the Gettysburg Battlefield.

Even if my ancestors had not fought in every battle from the American Revolution through the Civil War through World War II, I would oppose the desecration of this sacred place where the Boys in Blue and Grey gave the last full measure of devotion.

I'm sure you know that these patriots threw their playing cards into the broad road as they marched in quick step on their way to hell in meeting the elephant. I am sure you know in your hearts what a hideous mocking travesty erecting such a palace to the worst instincts of man.

There are many places already ruined by the spreading pox of commercial skullduggery. Please please I beg you do not do this. Do not build a casino at or anywhere near our historic battlefields.

Let us hold onot and still honor those who yet today represent the finest we have in America, our military.

In God We Trust,
Deo vindice
Semper Fidelis
Anchors Aweigh

Marsha E. Gantt
First Vice-Regent, Col, James Smith Chapter, York
Daughters of the American Revolution
Daughter of Union Veterans of the Civil War

As a graduate of Gettysburg College and Civil War buff, I oppose placing a casino so close to the historic battlefield. There are more appropriate places in the Commonwealth for casinos where the impact would not detract from the historical significance of a place such as the Gettysburg battlefield. Please do not denigrate the memory of the fallen soldiers by placing a casino in Gettysburg.

Please do NOT allow Mason-Dixon to have a license for a casino . Gettysburg is not just any town. It is a national treasure visited by people from around the world; a jewel in the tourism crown of Pennsylvania. Why would you risk being on the wrong side of the decision and allow a casino to be built here? As the old song says, `A man should never gamble more than he can afford to lose.`

I am opposed to any casino coming to the Adams, York, or surrounding counties.

Mr. Golden`s comment that an individual had to give a credit card to join the no casino movement is a lie.

The proposed casino is going to be located at a site that had seen significant involvement during the battle of Gettysburg. South Cavalry field is not located within the `park boundaries` but is directly adjacent to.

The development that the casino will bring to the land and property adjacent to the current inn would be a sacrilege to the preservation and memory of the veterans who fought and died in this area.

Please, do not disgrace the history of America by permitting a casino to be located in Gettysburg.

Name: **James Coyle** State: **NY** County: **greene county** ID: **1608** RegID: **1775**

Just for the record, at NO TIME did I give a credit card in order to join the NCG group. I joined for I reason and ONE reason only.. that this hallowed ground that my relative died in JULY 3 1862.. will not be desecrated by having a gaming parlor 1/2 mile from the battlefield. I do not oppose casinos in general. BUT JUST NOT HERE ..NOT NOWNOT EVER

As a former resident of Gettysburg, I'm dismayed at the public outcry regarding the proposed casino. I lived in the borough for twelve years and my children attended James Gettys elementary school and Gettysburg Junior High School before it became a middle school. They both graduated from the new Gettysburg Area High School in the first classes that attended all four years. We were members of St. James Lutheran church for a number of years as well and very involved in the community. I was employed in Gettysburg for the length of my time there and both of my children held jobs in local businesses. Therefore I feel I have a knowledgeable base upon which to rest my comments. One of the statements that I keep reading is that these are `hallowed grounds`. It's as if nothing happened there before the awful battle in which so many men and horses were killed. This land has been around since the big bang or the beginning of creation, whichever view you take. Many things happened there, some sacred, some not, I'm sure. It's always been troubling to me that so much attention has been given to the horror that took place there on those three days in July. We seem to thrive on horror. It hasn't seemed to help us learn not to do it again. There is so much division in this country now that people seem to be addicted to conflict. And from the ridiculous public display in this small town, Gettysburg keeps the war mentality alive. So now people want to gamble there. So what? As far as I'm concerned neither of those activities leads to peace and wellbeing or joy and happiness. To dwell on death leads to depression and hopelessness and to spend money that you don't have to gain money that the casino owners are going to be very reluctant to release is just as self-defeating. So have a casino or don't. It doesn't matter. Those who would strive to find peace and comfort in their lives know how to do that and it doesn't include either of those avenues.

I was born and raised in Gettysburg. This town is my home. The battlefield, and all the history surrounding my home is nice, and should be preserved, but that`s not what makes it my home. The one thing we DO NOT need here is a casino. My husband and I are strictly middle class. We`re not wealthy. While Adams County does indeed need tax relief and more full time jobs offered, I do not, by any means, believe that this casino would answer those needs. This town, like any other small town in the United States isn`t perfect, but bringing in a casino would only make our minor imperfections major. This IS a small town--not a city. I don`t want to see my home, my town, exploited for a few investors gain. Please do not let a casino become Gettysburgs legacy.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Pamela K Ginter

As a 2010 History graduate of Penn State, I would like to voice my intense opposition to the proposed casino only a half mile away from Gettysburg National Military Park. Although such I am not opposed to casinos in general, I find this particular proposal utterly revolting. Not only is such an establishment a slap in the face to the men who fought there in 1863, but it will also add additional preservation threats to a battlefield already by increasing urban sprawl. This simply does not fit in with the rural, historic, and important atmosphere of the Gettysburg community. I had three ancestors fight in this battle. Their names are engraved on battlefield monuments. I am speaking on their behalf as well as my own. Please keep these thoughts in mind as you cast your decision. Thank you for allowing the people to voice their opinions in this process.

Sincerely,
Jared Frederick
Tyrone, PA

Contrary to developers insistence, Gettysburg is not `the ideal location for a casino.` This is a sacred place, the site of the most significant battle and turning point of the Civil War, and the namesake and site of the Gettysburg address. The memorials and battlefields at Gettysburg are so much more than a local trip from Washington, Philadelphia and Baltimore, this is a national memorial and final resting place for thousands of soldiers from a watershed moment in American history. Please do not allow it to be derivatized into a casino. We owe it to our ancestors and to future Americans to not see this sacred place commercialized.

This consideration of a casino anywhere near this battlefield is a violation of our sacred history of the birth of this nation. It is the last thing Gettysburg needs. As a certified National Register Consultant and resident and visitor to the battlefield, this is an negative impact to and National Register Landmark that will scar this area in perpetuity. The gaming board can find many other locations in our Commonwealth that will not negatively impact our National Heritage. How about Conowingo Dam.

It is a sad day in America if we allow greed to overcome and overtake one of America`s most historic and sacred grounds. We can not allow another horrible event occur in our Nation. As September 11th approaches we will never forget our loss. Please do not allow another loss in our country. Pennsylvania is a large state, I am sure there can be a less sacred ground to build a casino. Please preserve our history and allow our soldiers who fought for this great country and freedom to rest in peace. Allow Americans to know the special place Gettysburg is, allow our children and thier children the luxury of feeling the uninterrupted sanctity felt in Gettysburg. Thank you for your consideration and God Bless America.

As a long-time community resident, historian, and tax-payer, I am adamantly opposed to a casino in the Gettysburg area. Please help us preserve the family-centered atmosphere of our community, and the integrity of this historic and living community. Please respect our community members and national battlefields enough to prohibit this proposed casino in the Gettysburg area.

I have spoken with countless people in this community, all of whom share my outrage at this proposal.

Thank you for preserving our community and our heritage.

I oppose a casino in our national known town of Gettysburg. There are 2 casinos within a hours drive from here, one near Harrisburg(Hollywood) and one near Harper`s farey(Charles Town).. We has seen no tax relief from any existing casino in PA since they have been approved for the last 4 years. I have seen what has happen to town that now have casino and how the town have gone down hill. I will never step foot in any PA casinos. Maryland has also approve the furture of casino soon.

I've seen casinos move into the area where I grew up on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. They make tremendous promises of prosperity and jobs. The jobs offer little more than a temporary solution to those they hire and no long term `career` options. The revenue sharing with the local community tends to be focused on `new` and `improved` where it benefits getting patrons to and from the casino only. As I've walked through casinos simply out of curiosity about their attraction, I see our senior adults and those living paycheck to paycheck squandering away even penny they receive from their retirement accounts or even the little income they have from social security income at the remote chance of `hitting it big.` Shame on those of us that reside in the Gettysburg/Adams County area if we allow a `misery maker` to enter our community in the form of a casino. As an Adams County resident of about 11 years, I say NO to any CASINO!!

A casino is the last thing that is needed here in Gettysburg.

- 1) First, the jobs that it will bring will be minimum wage jobs....not the kind of jobs that we need. We need jobs where people can actually provide for their families.
- 2) The roads in and around the proposed casino site will NOT support the extra traffic. Understand that this is a small country community. The road on which the Eisenhower Inn sits is a small 2 lane road that really can't be widened to support the traffic. So, the question is, where will the cars go. It's already very difficult to navigate around the traffic in the summer, we don't need more traffic (of which they will be heading south of town and not coming to see our history) tying up our streets.
- 3) Gettysburg is a place where so much tragedy occurred. This is HALLOWED ground. Do we really want to tell our ancestors that the ground that they valiantly fought for, died for, will be left to some casino? I wouldn't.
- 4) In this economy, people are desperate to make a buck. So, they take what little money they have and spend it in a casino. They lose it all (which WILL happen) and now we open up our community to crime.
- 5) What about alcohol related crashes? Once people are in the casino, they will drink, and then they leave. Driving down Emmitsburg Road will show that even a sober person will have trouble navigating that road at night. Its a little 2 lane country road which weaves around homes and farms. Who is going to go out to these crashes? Our volunteer firefighters? night after night.

The casino is a VERY bad idea for Gettysburg. The best place to put it (if it must be had) would be in a resort area like the Poconos or in a city. A little country town like Gettysburg is just wrong in on so many different levels.

Gettysburg is a national treasure. It should be a national issue if a casino is allowed to be placed there. There is only one Gettysburg where our Great Grandfathers and other family members died. Those who have lust for the dollar should go elsewhere and build. There are plenty of places that what the trash and problems that these places bring. Gettysburg is precious ground and should be honored as such!

Name: **Cathy J. Weaver**

State: **PA**

County: **York**

ID: **1629**

RegID: **1798**

This is a national treasure that should be respected. A casino should not be built within 25 miles of Gettysburg. It is hallow ground and should be respected as such.

I find it very interesting that everyone has an opinion on what should happen in Gettysburg, espically when they don` t live here. They don`t have to deal with the tax increase, the electric increase and the economical slow down. They don`t have to deal with the everyday issues. I was born in Gettysburg, Live in Gettysburg and will die in Gettysburg and if (the casino) brings tax releaf and jobs to Gettysburg you should do what is the best for the community right now. Then let them have the casino. If it increases crime or doesnt benifit the community then in 5, 10, 15 years re-evaluate the matter.

We need this casino in Adams County. The job creation factor alone is what this county needs, especially in a time of economic turmoil like this. The other businesses in the area will benefit as well, the added tourism and visitation to the general area will generate other spending by patrons, which will inevitably lead to even more jobs and business creation. In my opinion, Adams County is dying a slow death, stagnate job opportunities, and low wages force people out of the area to seek gainful employment elsewhere. The Gettysburg area is in a state of decline in particular, The national economic crisis has and will continue to impact the amount of battlefield tourists and the amount of money they spend there. The battlefield is an attraction to a small percentage of the population, and the casino will help broaden the spectrum of visitors interested in the area, and therefore increase the volume of visitors and their capital. We need this casino as an attraction to those individuals who probably wouldn't even consider making a trip here, and as an added incentive for those who already enjoy the area to keep coming back.

I live in a neighboring school district (CVSD), and this year, for the first time that I've heard of, our district has more students attending than Gettysburg's does. This is proof that people are migrating away from that area in search of more prosperous endeavors. Finally, with the prospect of tax relief on the horizon, money for our children's education, and other future projects that could be created from casino money, it would be a travesty to not give this county a chance to help or even save itself from financial demise. The county missed their first chance because of a few outspoken, older citizens who, quite frankly, probably aren't in the state of financial need that MOST of the county's residents are in. With jobs and wages on the decline in the county, while the taxes and prices continue to rise, this is a recipe for disaster, people that are in this close of a proximity to MD or DC will make that commute to save their family's lifestyle, if not just to survive. Please give us this chance to do something great for the county and it's people, give us the casino. Thank You.

Gettysburg is a national shrine commemorating the many deaths resulting from the most important battle of the Civil War. I visit Gettysburg frequently. The streets are already congested, parking is a problem and the small town is not equipped to handle the many problems a casino would bring.

The site selected for the casino is still actually part of the battlefield though not within the boundaries of the national park. Please do not allow a casino on this sacred ground.

I firmly believe it is a short-sighted and foolish idea to add gambling and all that accompanies it to a community identified with being a place for families to learn history and experience life in small towns and agricultural settings. I have lived in a community with gambling -- the `tone` of the tourists matched the `tone` of the community -- seedy rather than upstanding. Please don`t allow that to happen to Gettysburg and Adams County!

I am a American citizen and a Civil War reenactor who cares about my history. I am insulted that the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board would allow a casino to be built on hallowed ground.

When I visit Gettysburg I give reverence to the family I lost during the battle.

This will cause reenactors and other historians to refuse to come to Gettysburg. Which will cause a high amount of unemployment. Gettysburg will lose because casinos bring no local jobs. Crime steps in and people move away.

I love to come to Gettysburg and walk the grounds that my ancestors walked. You may not care but I do. I want our children and our grandchildren`s children to come to Gettysburg and learn our history not learn about casinos on hallowed ground.

On September 15th, 2001 I was on top of Little Round Top on the Gettysburg Battlefield. This was 4 days after the attack on the World Trade Center. I happened to meet a WW2 Veteran from Chicago there. After the events of 9/11, he needed to remember what our nation is all about. He chose to stop first at Gettysburg and planned to visit Valley Forge and Independence Hall on his quest for what made our nation great.

He did not choose to go to Atlantic City or Las Vegas. Gambling wasn't part of the great legacy. This battle was. We need to preserve this land. We need to preserve this community's purpose on our national heritage.

Adams County does not have the infrastructure to support a casino. Those who want to build a casino say it will offer tax relief. I believe it will do the opposite. We will need roads and more police. We will need higher taxes to pay for the greed of a limited few.

Many soldiers lost their lives here. Others lost a limb. Please do not forsake a one armed soldier in favor of a one armed bandit.

Name: **Edward G.. Puhl** State: **PA** County: **Adams County** ID: **1638** RegID: **1809**

I oppose this issuance of a license to this applicant because of the proximity of the proposed gaming resort to the historic Gettysburg National Military Park.

To the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board;

As a citizen of Adams County, I would like to be recorded as strongly opposing any sort of gaming facility in Adams County.

While I grew up, and currently live, in Adams County, during 2008-2009 I lived along the PA/NJ border and often drove through Bethlehem PA, close to where the Sands Casino is located. I specifically avoided the area near and around the Sands Casino. If a gaming facility is built in Adams County, I will do the same as I did in Bethlehem: avoid putting my money and time in that area.

I will be moving to Texas later this year. Some might say that my opinion therefore should not carry any weight. I would argue otherwise: I will be returning often as I have family in Adams County. But, as much as I dearly love this area with its farms and rich history, I will think twice before visiting Gettysburg if a gaming facility is there. As much as I wish to share the Gettysburg National Battlefield with my children, I will not take them as often as I'd like to if Adams County hosts a casino.

If we allow irresponsibility and greed to make its presence known here in Adams County by constructing a gaming facility, then we show through our actions what we ourselves are, whether or not we actively gamble: irresponsible and greedy citizens. Such people are not needed at any time, but particularly now as our country is struggling to make its way out of a recession. I heartily believe we should be encouraging job growth in this county: jobs that encourage men and women to work hard and then use their paycheck to support their family. Casinos do not foster an atmosphere in which fathers and mothers are encouraged to spend time with their children; they do not nurture a marriage, put food on the table, or help pay the mortgage.

Therefore, as a current citizen of Adams County and as a future possible tourist, I strongly oppose the construction of any type of gaming facility in Adams County.

My great, great, great Grandfather, George W. Dice, fought at Gettysburg. He lost his arm after Picketts Charge and was taken prisoner. After his parole he lead a very hard life and lost everything he and his family owned due to this war wound. It truly disgusts me and my family to think that everything this man believed in and the land he fought on could be subject to a disgrace as a Casino. This is such a disrespect to the fallen. I believe that this Country`s Historical areas are precious and worth keeping pure for the sanctity to remind us of what we have risen above. To allow a casino to be put so close to such a valuable spot is like spitting in the face of my great x2 grandfather. Its like saying to the country forget what you have learned from the past and be stupid again. Furthermore, Gettysburg has a legacy. It still holds the traditional value of a family vacation spot. A place where families can go to learn, enjoy the beautifulness of its lands, and be together. I ask you... What message are you telling children, America`s future, when they happen across a casino in the famous area where a battle was fought to teach right from wrong? You are telling them its ok to spit on morals. You are telling them its ok to turn your back on whats right and to forget the struggles from those who fought to ensure that right is done! I oppose the building of a casino at Gettysburg. Please be openminded to the struggles, heartaches, and teaching of the past and vote NO!

`forsan et haec olim meminisse iuvabit` - `Maybe one day we shall be glad to remember even these things...Vergil, The Aeneid - Book I` -

Tradition - the handing down of statements, beliefs, legends, customs, information, etc., from generation to generation, esp. by word of mouth or by practiceies and traditions.

Very strongly oppose -

To All Concerned,

Fact, The Gettysburg Battlefield grounds are not only the one`s controlled by the NPS. The whole area is historically significant and sacred.

Fact, `The Washington, D.C.-based Civil War Preservation Trust put the Gettysburg National Military Park on its endangered list because of the casino plan`. (Mark Levee, Associated Press)

Who will replace these funds?

Fact, Gambling brings Addiction. Gambling increases crime, and prostitution.

In Fact -

Real costs for everyone

Gambling costs those who NEVER gamble!

Each compulsive gambler costs the economy between \$14,006 and \$22,077 per year. If 2% become addicted, that`s \$280 to \$440 per year paid by every other citizen!

Trading jobs kills development

Most casinos attract 80% or more of their market

from a 35-50 mile radius. Casinos absorb existing entertainment, restaurant and hotel business, and deplete dollars available to other retail businesses. That destroys other jobs in the trade area and eliminates their sales,

employment and property tax contributions.

Gambling brings addiction

When gambling appears in a community, it brings a wave of addiction. In a mature gambling market, compulsive gambling typically seizes the lives of 1.5% to 2.5% of the adult population, depending on location and demographics. That amounts to three to five times the number of people suffering from cancer. Youth have even higher addiction rates, between 4 and 8%.

Proximity and poverty matter

Addiction rates double within 50 miles of a casino. A casino within 10 miles of a home

yields a 90% increased risk of its occupants becoming pathological or problem gamblers. Neighborhood disadvantage increases that risk another 69%. Slots and other gambling machines push susceptible players to the

pathological level in an average of 1.08 years, vs. 3.58 years with more “conventional” forms of table and racetrack gambling.

Gambling increases crime

Desperate to “chase” and recover gambling losses, pathological gamblers often turn to crime. Fraud and embezzlement become common among formerly hard-working and highly trusted people. Panhandling, thefts, break-ins, muggings, prostitution and violent crimes also increase.

David LeVan is NO philanthropist, he is a self motivated/serving businessman. He is more concerned with lining his pockets with money than the health of the small businesses of Gettysburg.

Fact, Casino owners are the only winners. Most jobs are seasonal, part-time or are out sourced.

Even if the last paragraph is not exactly correct, the fact remains, Gettysburg, the surrounding lands, are all sacred. Do I need to define respect? Do I need to define how to Honor the brave soldiers who paid the ultimate price, with their Lives?

If David LeVan wants a Casino, let him build it 30 miles away from Gettysburg. I am certain the majority of the employees for businesses drive 30 - 45 minutes.

Unfortunately, LeVan would not consider this, no, he is banking on the 100`s of 1000`s of people drawn to Gettysburg to honor, view, study, enjoy the Battlefield`s to stray and inevitably pay to play.

I beg all of you to once again deny the construction of a casino anywhere close to the National Park, the sacred, hallowed grounds surrounding Our National Treasure, Gettysburg Pa.

Humbly,

Raymond Kline - owner, www.GettysburgAddress.com - Visitor`s Guide to Historic Gettysburg.

DiAnne Smith - former Gettysburg business owner

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DiAnne Smith - former Gettysburg business owner

Hello

My name is Brian Fletcher form Bedford Pa.

I am a Police Officer of 20 Years at the Everett Police Department.

I have arrested criminals and testified in many court hearings in my 20 years as a police officer.

I am Opposed to the Mason Dixon Resorts being licensed to allow a Casino in Gettysburg.

I have several reasons for being opposed to this.

1.I have family members in both Northern and Southern

Armies that fought and died at Gettysburg.

I do not want the Hollowed Ground that they rest in
desecrated by the Mason Dixon Casino.

These men were a very God fearing people during this
Horriable Civil War and to allow the desecration of their
memory is a crime.

History has proven that crime rises in areas that allow
GamblingGettysburg is a safe town to walk in now and
We The People want to continue to be safe to walk in the
Hollowed streets of Gettysburg not fearing a criminal
element being present .

Do Not Allow The Building Of A Casino In Gettysburg.

Thank You

Brian K Fletcher also.

I am a frequent visitor to Pennsylvania and part of a family whose ancestors have lived in various areas of Pennsylvania for over three hundred years, some of whom fought in the Battle of Gettysburg.

The Gettysburg area is not the place for a commercial gaming casino ... it is hallowed ground, and the pristine historical condition of the town and fields would be polluted by the presence of such a facility. There could not possibly be any mitigating circumstances to ruin such a rare and rich place.

People who want to gamble will drive anywhere. If another casino must be built, there are many other areas in the center of the state which would be suitable.

Name: **Kevin W. Yeager** State: **MI** County: **Kent** ID: **1649** RegID: **1821**

A casino in Gettysburg would be a national catastrophe. This is the site of a national treasure and memorial, To allow this kind of establishment would be an insult to those who fought and their families.

I feel that a casino coming to this area would be such a detriment to the value of the area. I live on Emmitsburg Road just south of the Battlefield. I feel that when I sit on my front porch I can almost imagine General E. Lee and his men traveling down Emmitsburg Road to his next destination. Several documentaries have been made on the mile markers that are just minutes from the area. We have found many artifacts on the grounds surrounding the general area. The big rocks and the shale on our land are a testament of the battlefield and our vicinity to the historic area. To put a casino in the middle of what I call the extended battlefield and the actual battlefield is such an atrocity and not fair to our ancestors and our history. To have this happen in the name of a few hundred jobs seems such a waste of what we have here and what my family and I came here for. The casino just doesn't fit here. Thanks for listening.

Debra Hess Enriquez

A casino in Gettysburg is a gross defacing of the ground which so many men fought and died for. If they could rise up from their resting places and view what`s happening now, they might wonder, `I died for a casino?`

That way of thinking is utterly shallow. The Civil War, in many ways, was a war of ideals, as is this current debate. Each side is convinced they`re right, and each side is convinced the other is wrong. But if you have an ancestor who fought, and likely died on those grounds, please, for their memories, fight for this land that they fought for. Fight to save it. Perhaps it won`t be as it was then, with battle flags and bugles and drums, but we will still fight. This cause is not yet lost, friends. And with hope, it never will be.

I oppose locating a casino in Gettysburg because of the historical significance of the battle site. Commercialization of this `hallowed ground` in the name of revenue or potential jobs is abhorrent. There is plenty of land in Pennsylvania for building a casino - this location is least desirable.

I find up unbelievable that this is even being consider, i would find it hard to believe that anybody would go to a casino in or near Gettysburg, after going around the battlefield, there is enough to do in a evening with out going to a casino, these tend to bring the wrong type of people to what is a peaceful town, and known as such around the world.

As a citizen of the United States, I oppose the building of a casino near the Gettysburg battlefield. This type of business does not well-represent our American heritage and has no place in this location, especially since it will likely use the historic nature of the venue as part of its advertisement. I am far less likely to visit Gettysburg if a casino is built in the area, as I seek wholesome activities for me and my family, and a casino does not bring wholesomeness to an area. I have actively avoided other areas where casinos are located.

My family moved to Adams County in 1968. We moved here because we felt it was a very good place to rear our children. You can be sure that we would never have chosen Gettysburg if there had been a casino here.

We have many relatives and friends visit us, to a large extent because of their interest in the battlefield. I have yet to hear any of them say that a casino at Gettysburg will make them feel `good` about visiting here. I have no doubt that a casino will have a very negative effect on the number of visitors (especially families) who come to `these hallowed grounds` to experience the greatness of the Gettysburg battlefield and the experiences, such as the new visitor center, which are available for all to enjoy. I don't think a casino would encourage the kind of tourists that we want to attract to our community.

Please consider the quality of life for the residents and the appeal to potential residents and to tourists that Gettysburg enjoys.

Thank you,
Carolyn Legg

Please do not build a Casino in the Gettysburg area. Doing so will change the atmosphere, meaning, and visiting experience of Gettysburg. American`s will also think twice about visiting this hallowed ground often when it has been poisoned by a casino.
Building a casion near Gettysburg is wrong.

Name: **Kent Husted** State: **Md** County: **Montgomery** ID: **1664** RegID: **1832**

Please do not build a casino on or near this hallowed ground.

Please do not build a casino on or near this hallowed ground.

Name: **Kent Husted** State: **Md** County: **Montgomery** ID: **1666** RegID: **1832**

Please do not build a casino on or near this hallowed ground. It would cheapen the meaning of those who fought at Gettysburg.

Name: **William H. Jones** State: **PA** County: **Adams County** ID: **1668** RegID: **1835**

I have spent my entire career as a counseling psychologist in the Gettysburg area, and I believe that bringing a casino to this community would be devastating. Please vote against the Mason-Dixon proposal.

Name: **Kevin D. Thomas**

State: **WV**

County: **Wetzel**

ID: **1669**

RegID: **1836**

any where but gettysburg

Name: **Kevin D. Thomas**

State: **WV**

County: **Wetzel**

ID: **1670**

RegID: **1836**

No casino in Gettysburg thing about a bar and gambling joint on your mothers grave or your sons grave
not right

Name: **Kevin D. Thomas**

State: **WV**

County: **Wetzel**

ID: **1671**

RegID: **1836**

not in gettysburg

Name: **Kevin D. Thomas**

State: **WV**

County: **Wetzel**

ID: **1672**

RegID: **1836**

Anywhere but Gettysburg build it if you must money mongers

With the sacred landscape of Gettysburg, dedicated to the memories of fallen soldiers, and of the fight for the country as we know it, it's astonishing to find, again, that some would prefer to have a party that claims the historic name, to say that playing with money belongs even close to Gettysburg. It's a violation of our history, it's a violation of the future. The price of gambling is high, with destroyed families, the financial ruin. In the shadow of the lesson of financially troubled Las Vegas, why should the families that live and breathe the air around the battlefields be told that their lives and their personal histories are for sale?

This is not what America is meant to be.

Name: **Edwin j. Lynch** State: **MA** County: **Northampton** ID: **1674** RegID: **1837**

I'm sure there are far better places for gambling than in the historically sacred Gettysburg area.

I would like to speak as a member of the community for over 12 years. I came here to be a part of the wonderful, historic area that Gettysburg is.

I have seen what Michael Lavine has done bringing the harley davidson store and those that are his patrons. I have seen the destructive behaviors that the bikers have put on this town during the so called biker weekends. The locals dont even go into town because of this type of element on those weekends. All for increasing monies for the town and to open it up for more jobs. Bad thought. I feel sorry for the families that save money to bring their families to see the battlefields and town and dont know its bike week. Its a disaster. There are brawls in the taverns, strippers in the hotels, cop fights and general drunken in public not to mention the noises from the bikes. It is not good for our town to have that element. It gives us a bad name and folks wont come back to see it when its not got the bikers. A sad descission was made for this and now we pay for it...all for money... Our roads cant take more traffic,or that will cost money to make them, our police force cant handle any more, our stores wont benifit. Gambles spend the money in the casino. sooooo, oh, the monies will go to Harrisburg. That doesnt help us either. well there is more at stake here than money. Its preservation of a sacred ground. Yes the proposed casino in not legally on the park but it still is battle field. It should remain quiet and respectful. People who gamble will drive another 10-20 or 50 miles to gamble because they dont care. They just want convience and money. The hotel is almost falling apart, I know, I live here. Theyre desperate to make money. We dont want that kind of element around the town or the battlefield. With other sites available, they should go there. There is ONLY ONE Gettysburg. Leave us alone and if you could take Michael Levine and his motorcycles out of town too, that would be wonderful. I love my town.. Go somewhere else.

As a former Pennsylvanian, born and bread in the state, I strongly oppose having a casino anywhere near Gettysburg.

Several of my ancestors and friends of my ancestors gave their lives there. I grew up and being taught that this was sacred ground. Surrounding this sacred ground with get-rich-quick shoddy developments cheapens it and puts at peril the very thing that underlies your current economy.

Name: **Cindy L. Janczyk** State: **PA** County: **Adams** ID: **1677** RegID: **1841**

I strongly oppose the establishment of a local casino in the vicinity of Gettysburg, PA. I believe it would be a desecration of land already preserved to honor the many who died here.

A casino at Gettysburg is wrong. Consider another location.

I am not against free enterprise, however, I do believe that there is a place for everything and Gettysburg is not the place for a casino of any kind. People come to Gettysburg because of what happened there; to honor those who gave their last full measure of devotion. Gambling can happen anywhere. I can only go to Gettysburg to experience that particular battlefield. I can gamble in a variety of places. If a casino will come to Gettysburg, it will destroy the sanctity of the field and it can never be gotten back. I have heard people report that many gambling casinos are suffering today due to the economy and the increase competition of new casinos. Once the peace of Gettysburg is broken, there is no turning back. Please leave it the way it has been. Let's leave what is a living classroom available to continue teaching.

Name: **Bethany Zaffuto** State: **PA** County: **Clearfield** ID: **1680** RegID: **1844**

A casino is wrong for Gettysburg. My mother and father take me there because it is for families to learn

Dear Members of the Gaming Board,

My name is Ellen Tracey. I have spent all of my life first as a citizen of Maryland and now as a citizen of Virginia. I would like to speak against granting a permit for a casino in Gettysburg. I cherish the very many times I have taken first my children and now my grandchildren to this hallowed place. Gettysburg is a unique location in America where history comes alive for those of all generations. Please do not despoil this sacred ground and ruin a place where we can take the future of our nation for lessons in history and patriotism. Thank you.

Mason/Dixon Resorts Public Hearing , Please do not desecrate the hallowed ground of Gettysburg . I am not opposed to casinos or gambling , only please understand that the bloodiest battle in North America happened here . Men died for their cause here . And this is sacred ground , not just the bouderies of the park , the whole area where men fought and died in 1863 . Please , do not put a casino anywhere near sacred ground , not near Gettysburg . Terry Rooney .

As an adult child of a gambler. I remember my father being so caught up in a card game and forgetting to pick me up after a school dance, and having to walk home 5 miles at midnight as a sixteen year old girl. If you have no experience as a child of a gambler, it's like a drug to them or a loaded gun. Please reconsider putting a casino minutes from my home.

Name: **Ferranto Alan** State: **Pa** County: **Adams** ID: **1686** RegID: **1853**

I live in Cumberland Township and do not want a Casino in my Township. I am against the Casino.
Thank you---Al Ferranto

No good ever comes from casinos. People who gamble have an addiction and lose their money that they could use to care for themselves and their families. This location is too easily accessible to people with families.

My name is Charles Meeker, II and I am 14 years old. I reside in Wayne Township, Lawrence County, Pennsylvania. I chose the Gettysburg National Military Park for my Senior Project because of the beauty and reverence felt every time I walk on these battlefields.

I have 2 questions to ask the board. Did you have family fight at Gettysburg? Well I did on both sides! Do you care about the history of this nation? Without the Battle of Gettysburg we would not be one nation! Did you know that George Washington stopped in Adams County on his way to Philadelphia, he stayed in Hunterstown not far from here.

If you permit this casino, you will turn this lovely historic region into a sin town. Yes I realize that it would bring jobs in, but do you want prostitution, drugs and organized crime associated with these types of establishments. Think about it long and hard before you permit the destruction of these hallowed grounds.

I highly disapprove of gaming in a historical setting. I recently visited Niagara Falls to enjoy the magical nature of the falls. The state park was beautiful but to get to it, you pass dirty touristy gaming. It made the falls unpleasant and I will not visit there again. I was very disappointed in my experience with the town of Niagara Falls NY. The falls in themselves are beautiful and are to be appreciated but as for spending money in the town, we cut our trip short so we could move to a more pleasant area to stay.

I believe you will be destroying the historical and the beauty of the countryside of the Gettysburg area. If you want gaming, put it somewhere, where it will not destroy the beautiful side of PA.

My name is Lori Tillia-Meeker and I reside in Wayne Township, Lawrence County, Pennsylvania. I have a question to ask this board? Do you care and love this state or is just all gambling for you? I had family fight on both sides at Gettysburg and it would make them sick if you would turn this area into a den of iniquity and ruin the the reverence felt here at Gettysburg. If any of the veterans who fought here were asked about this casino, they would probably shoot you for the blatant and want destruction of these hallowed grounds. In 1913 the veterans were still alive and when they found out about the vandalism at Gettysburg their reply was was hanging was too good for these people, they would feel the same way today. Just remember what the Lord God Almighty did to Somdom and Gormora in the Bible, please do not let this happen to Gettysburg.

I am a Gettysburg resident. I live adjacent to a portion of the Gettysburg Battlefield (Seminary Ridge). I am opposed to the opening of a casino in the immediate area of the Battlefield. I have no original argument, just the same arguments you have heard many times: I think a casino detracts from the significance of the Battlefield, I am concerned about its possible social impact, and I am skeptical of supporters` (to me, extravagant) claims of economic benefits to the community.

Once again, we are faced with this threat of a casino in our area. The possibility of a casino in the Gettysburg area is inconceivable. It would be an intrusion on the history of this area and I definitely don't believe it would be an economic cure-all or lower real estate taxes as has been stated by pro-casino people. I have not met one single person who is in favor of a casino in Gettysburg. No-one has polled me or anyone I know, yet I hear reports that there is overwhelming support for the casino. I don't believe this. The history and peace of this area should be preserved for future generations. Please don't approve this proposal!

The only thing those for the casino stand on is jobs for Gettysburg residents. How about bringing in a Sams Club or BJ`s, a Lowe`s or Home Depot, an Olive Garden or Cracker Barrel? Those would create more of the jobs that residents would want to do and be proud to do.

I wish to thank you for allowing these hearings and allowing us all to speak, whether verbally or in written form.

I vehemently oppose this project. Being a descendant of Major General John Fulton Reynolds, highest ranking officer killed at the battle of Gettysburg and a relation to President Eisenhower, I may not reside in Gettysburg but I have deep ties to it. I spend a great deal of time, money and perform volunteer work on that battlefield. We must not allow any kind of entity come into it or near it that would cause any potential harm to it.

As Americans we are all bound by promises to our ancestors, by honor, to preserve and protect places like Gettysburg. It is not David LeVan`s or any other investor or developer to gamble with. Some places are just off limits.

These economic hardships we are all suffering through right now will pass us by, but Gettysburg...there is only one and if we allow it to be tainted, ruined, destroyed...that`s it. We lose it forever. That is not the legacy I nor millions of others want to leave for the future.

You have 3 other more suitable choices to choose from to award this license to. Please, take Gettysburg off the list. It belongs to us all, we all have a say. It is NOT a local issue. It is a national park, making it a NATIONAL issue and the nation is saying NO!

Again, my thanks. My the Good Lord guide you in your decision. Please protect Gettysburg once again, as the board members before you did.

Danielle Costa
Mechanicsburg, PA

I strongly oppose putting a gambling casino next to the Gettysburg battlefield. Just as you wouldn't think to put a casino near the graveyard at Normandy nor next to the Washington Mall, it is inappropriate to have one anywhere near the Gettysburg battlefield. As famed Civil War Gen. Joshua Chamberlain of the 20th Maine noted on one of his many return trips to Gettysburg: `In great deeds something abides. On great fields something stays.... And reverent men and women from afar, and generations that know us not and that we know not of, heart-drawn to see where and by whom great things were suffered and done for them, shall come to this deathless field, to ponder and dream....` Let these reverent ones not be blinded by the lights and congestion of a casino. Please do not allow a casino in Gettysburg.

I recently attend the meeting held for this proposed casino with my wife who spoke at the hearing (Ms. Violet T. Clark). I have remained neutral until recently. Pro-Casino Adams County with the support of Mason Dixon Gaming has made a series of cruel, ugly, nasty videos and posted them on You-tube. These groups call her Violent Terror Quark. The latest video has a character portraying my wife committing horrible acts of violence. If these groups treat tourist and visitors like this then what will happen if they are award the casino and someone disagrees with them. These groups call her Violent Terror Quark.

In a few days I will be visiting Gettysburg for the first time in my life (75 years) and I am appalled at the idea that someday there might be a casino built close to the battlefield. This is `sacred ground` and should be preserved as such. Not only would it be an eye sore but it will take away for the grandeur of the area, hurt the shops, stores, hotels, restuarants that are already part of the scene and possibly struggling for survival. I adamantly hope that the Board does not approve this casino at this location. Thank you.

I oppose the proposal for casino in Gettysburg area. My family has enjoyed several long-weekend trips to Gettysburg, including the town, park, and surrounding area. Our focus is the hallowed ground and historic significance of this place. A casino attraction would change the spirit shared by all visitors. If a casino were part of the landscape, my family would no longer be attracted to spend time there.

I am a resident of Adams Co., a father of two young boys, I work as a nurse in the county, and I am involved in various community groups providing services to underserved or marginalized populations. I strongly oppose gambling and the Mason-Dixon project in particular. I appreciate the effort to bring business to Adams Co. however this is one that I cannot support in good conscience. David LeVan has done a lot of good work in Gettysburg for that I acknowledge and applaud him. But a casino is not something to be proud of.

Respectfully,
Fred Oberholtzer

Please consider in your determination of allowing casinos that there are personal interests, tax revenue, crime, drugs, mafia, you are inviting besides the obvious benefits. Which is mostly financial.

My only request is to think through to the future and what this choice will allow for. Is it consistent with our heritage, scaredness of this land, our integrity and word we have given to honor this area? Is there other ways to that would work even better but you haven't explored yet...please consider before jumping to the obvious rush for revenue. Thank you.

Dear Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board...

My name is Kari and I reside in Marshall, Minnesota. First of all, you should know I'm not a person who normally feels the need to comment on things such as this, but I couldn't look at myself in the mirror if I did not put in my two cents. I had the pleasure of visiting Gettysburg about 20 years ago as a kid. I had always loved history...my childhood dream was to be Indiana Jones when I grew up. Even as a 12-year-old girl I remember the feeling I had as I walked over that beautiful battlefield...the wonder and reverence and sense of peace that permeated that entire park. There is a serenity about the National Park and the borough of Gettysburg that I have rarely found since. Now I've lived in Minnesota my entire life, but there is a small piece of me that lingers in those 6,000 acres so many hundreds of miles away.

When I heard about the proposal to build a casino so close to the park, I was horrified. I've seen the effect a casino can have on a community firsthand, and it's not usually good. Look, I have no objection to casinos as a whole, but to put it a half mile from Gettysburg....my God, I just don't understand the reasoning. There is something about that piece of land...something not tangible but you know it's there because you feel it in your chest...something you can't buy or build or replace...once that `feeling` is gone, it's gone.

Don't get me wrong, I'm all for change and growth but I also believe caution and common sense should be exercised. I do not doubt for one moment that there are not several other options as to where that casino could go...there's ALWAYS another place, but there is not another Gettysburg. We have so few places in this country like that park...I would certainly hate to lose that over the uncertain notion of making a quick buck. I respectfully request that you to deny this proposal. I'm not only asking for myself and my children and their children, but for my 12-year-old self and all the others like me across the country and world who still remember how they felt when they first gazed across those quiet, green fields. Gettysburg belongs not just to those that reside there but to the entire nation.

Thank you for your time.

Kind regards,
Kari Beck
Marshall, Minnesota

any casino or any form of gambling and any form of overt commercialization in, or near/around the gettysburg area is a disgrace and a dishonor to our country.

PLEASE preserve this national treasure and keepit pure for future generations to remember and honor the sacrifices made to unite our country.

MCVZ

Name: **Candace L. Walker**

State: **PA**

County: **Adams**

ID: **1711**

RegID: **1887**

A gambling Casino does not belong in Gettysburg. Let`s not desecrate this historic location with a Casino. People have better things to do with their time than gamble. People have better ways to use their money than gambling with it. Let us not promote this destructive behavior at this historic location.

I grew up in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. In spring 2010 I got married and moved to Texas with my husband, but we both hope to return to the Gettysburg area someday to raise our family.

Congress and the National Gambling Impact Study Commission attest to the social problems in areas that allow gambling. Simply put, a location near a casino and slot machines is NOT where we want to raise our family.

If this goes forward, we will be very unlikely to return to Gettysburg, and instead choose a location that is not a haven for social troubles. We'll take our family, our commerce and our business elsewhere.

Name: **Sheron Henderson** State: **PA** County: **Adams** ID: **1714** RegID: **1890**

Please do not license a casino in or near Gettysburg. Many things that should remain sacred are being taken from us everyday, please don't let the Battlefield at Gettysburg fall among the lost. Surely there are other places in Pennsylvania that could be licenced without destroying one of the most notable towns in our country`s rich history.

This casino is not just a Cumberland Township issue, it is an issue which affects Gettysburg and all of southern Adams County.

Mason-Dixon's Local Impact Report says that about 71% of their customers will come from residents or hotel guests within 30 minutes of the casino. The money spent in a casino is money which would otherwise go mostly to existing local businesses. Only about an eighth of the casino revenues are predicted to stay here in Adams County. The bulk of the casino's receipts will go to investor profits, state gambling taxes and other expenses - primarily out-of-county suppliers. Ultimately, we would be left with substantial infrastructure and social costs. Thus a casino represents a financial loss for the Gettysburg area.

Gettysburg is a national treasure. We hold this town and this battlefield in trust for the nation. We should not cheapen it with the tawdry glitz of a gambling casino. Let's keep Gettysburg the glowing symbol of America's new birth of freedom that it is.

Perhaps the people making this decision should step outside their cubicles for an afternoon, go to the Gettysburg Battlefield and sit there. Think about what transpired there. You must be caught up in something bigger than yourselves to even think that putting a casino in Gettysburg is a wise decision.

As a tourist interested in historic sites, I would be less likely to choose to visit Gettysburg and the surrounding areas if a casino or other gambling facilities were present.

I do not believe the casino would be good for Adam`s County. I do not believe it would bring good jobs. I do believe that it would hurt tourism here, because tourists come to a site of historic value, not an amusement center.

A casino mitigates against the primary value of Gettysburg- that a nation had the character to fight against slavery, and win. We fought here for character and a casino would fight against character.

I believe we need good jobs and good opportunities brought into the county. I do NOT believe this would help us with either one of those goals. I believe the investors would lose their money here, and this site would embarass the gambling world.

Gettysburg is a unique historic site and a national treasure. All Americans should be able to visit the battlefield in peace and with a sense of reverence for the tens of thousands of men who fought and died there. A gaming facility so close to that sacred ground would defile the memory of those who gave their lives. I urge the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board to deny the casino license. Please preserve Gettysburg for our children and their children to cherish.

please keep a casino from the Gettysburg area- a great national treasure that needs to stand alone. There are many other locations that can be chosen. I beg of all of you to use great wisdom in not selecting Gettysburg.

Thank you for seriously considering the ramifications of such a huge decision.

Casino will increase gambling addiction and bring about a crime increase requiring more law enforcement, counseling needs, debt. Not worth the minimal tax relief that may or may not come about, as taxes in other areas are increasing.

Ultimately, this county is in need of jobs that are **PRODUCTIVE** with personal growth opportunities, higher pay scales and benefits, not part-time jobs with no benefits or limited benefits.

Statement of Donald Marritz

My name is Donald Marritz. I have lived in Adams County for over 36 years, the last 22 in the Borough of Gettysburg. My wife and children were born here.

I am opposed to the grant of a license for a casino here, for many of the same reasons you have already heard, but also for perhaps more fundamental reasons, touching on the honesty, character and integrity of the applicants. Not surprisingly, these are explicit requirements for a licensee, under §1602 of the Gaming Board statute and §421a.1 of the Board regulations.

An applicant has the burden of proving that it has it is honest and has good character and integrity, and it must do it by clear and convincing evidence, 4 Pa. C.S. §1602(d).

Clear and convincing evidence is “so clear, direct, weighty, and convincing as to enable the trier of fact to come to a clear conviction, without hesitancy, of the truth of the precise facts in issue.” Matter of Chiovero, 524 Pa. 181, 187, 570 A.2d. 57, 60 (199).

The applicant in this case has not satisfied its statutory burden. In fact, in its most public acts, it has shown—over and over again—that it is has not been honest with either the Board or the public, is not of good character, and does not have integrity.

The applicant has revealed these things about itself in its relentless advertising campaign, on which it has spent untold dollars.

Specifically, the applicant has been less than honest and forthright in its claims about tax relief and employment. It has not shown integrity, by its lack of honesty and by its attempt to stifle public criticism of its plans and its disrespectful, shoddy treatment of opponents of a casino.

TAX RELIEF

The applicant has made extravagant and misleading claims that there would be significant tax relief if a casino were located here.

To be sure, there would be some tax relief but not on the scale suggested by the applicant, and not just if a casino was located in the Gettysburg area.

Cumberland Township would likely benefit from a casino. However, that township is home to only about 6,000 people. The tax benefits to everyone else in Adams County – about 100,000 people—would be minimal.

People all over the Commonwealth already get tax relief from gaming taxes generated by other existing casinos, no matter where the people or the casinos are located. As I understand it, we in the Gettysburg area would get some further tax relief from a new casino, regardless of where it was located. Tax relief would be no more—except for the single township where the casino would be located—if it were here in the Gettysburg area than in any other of the potential sites. The applicant has never brought out that important fact. In fact, it has hidden it.

Moreover, it has made misleading implications about the amount of tax relief, which in fact would not be significant. A local newspaper published an article stating that for a \$150,000 house—an average home value in this area—property taxes would be reduced by \$52/year. This is a negligible amount on tax bills which run into thousands of dollars. The applicant has not rebutted that \$52 figure, so far as I know.

The promise of significant tax relief is a hollow, misleading one—the direct result of the applicant’s substantial advertising campaign.

JOBS

The other main claim of the applicant, in a further effort to sway public opinion, also suffers from inaccuracy and exaggeration.

The applicant has consistently claimed that the casino would produce 900 new jobs. That figure is purely speculative and exaggerated.

A local newspaper published an article stating that there would be about 350-375 jobs at a casino. The applicant has not refuted this figure. Nor has the applicant said anything about what kind of jobs these would be or what they would pay.

TREATMENT OF CRITICS

The applicant takes the position that people who are not “from here” should have no say about this issue, while at the same time explicitly trading on its world-wide fame and counting on revenue from the people who come from all over the world to visit the Gettysburg National Military Park. The absurdity and dishonesty of such a position is evident on its face.

In addition, the applicant, through its spokesman Dave La Torre, has often used a disrespectful, mocking tone when speaking about casino opponents—ordinary citizens who are concerned about the negative effects a casino would have on the area where they live. Disagreement does not warrant disrespect.

Such treatment not only speaks to a lack of common decency. It speaks, more loudly, to a lack of integrity, another critical element that an applicant is required to have. An applicant that has to resort to disrespectful treatment of those who disagree with it is not the sort of entity you should choose to get a casino license.

SUMMARY

In these key areas, the applicant has not been honest and forthright and has not acted with integrity—all of which qualities are requirements to get a gaming license.

The applicant has not satisfied these elements by even a preponderance of the evidence, much less the clear and convincing evidence that the statute and regulation require.

The applicant has exaggerated or misstated facts, in an effort to sway public opinion to get its own, selfish way. It has been mean, nasty and brutish in its treatment of its critics.

If this is the way it has run its advertising campaign, imagine how it would operate if it did get a license. This is not the sort of conduct that the Board should encourage or reward.

I ask that you deny the applicant's request.

Donald Marritz
61 East Broadway
Gettysburg, Pa. 17325
(717) 334-7156

We were the fortunate guests at the memorial this year, and I would hate to see it desecrated by a casino so near the battlefield where so many lost their lives.

We own a restaurant about 8 miles from the proposed site. We support the casino in many ways, the first being the many jobs this will bring our area. We have so many people applying for jobs everyday and we can only employ so many. Also it will keep the revenue being spent in other areas (Atlantic City-Charlestown) in our county. And last but certainly not least the more business we will see at our restaurant from people visiting the casino. We feel the casino would be a very positive addition to our county.

I support the proposed casino in many ways, the jobs it will create, the revenue it will bring to our county, and the increase in business to my restaurant. A lot of our local citizens go to Atlantic City and Charlestown, why not keep the revenue right here and help our community. I have lived in Adams County all my life (69 years) and I believe the casino would make a very positive impact on our county. Also we have so many people coming in to the restaurant for jobs, there are a lot of people out of work in the area and this will definitely help.

I am a proud Gettysburg native who visits the battlefield frequently, often as an unofficial tourguide for folks from Washington, other American locations and foreign countries. We drive in the Emmitsburg Road to get to the Battlefield and I am usually well into the preamble of the tour by then. To have to pass -- and embarassingly explain -- a CASINO as we are that close to the dramatic entrance onto the Day 2 and 3 sites would be very distressing and would definitely undermine the whole experience. My little excursions are one thing -- visits by more important people, including Members of Congress, foreign heads of state, military leaders, etc. -- coming up from Washington -- would present the same issue but with more significant impliacations. I personally feel it is an unnecessary and highly counterproductive invasion of the Gettysburg experience. Please turn down the application. Thank you for your consideration.

Thomas M. Sneeringer

Name: **jeff c. bryant** State: **ny** County: **albany** ID: **1734** RegID: **1913**

I am a graduate of Gettysburg College. The town holds a special place in history and we need to preserve as best as possible the historical nature of the town. A casino would be so counterproductive to that end. I urge you to vote against this casino opening here.

I am absolutely against a casino in the Gettysburg area. I feel that having a casino so close to the Gettysburg Battlefield would be detrimental. I think it would have a very negative effect on the people that live there as well as the tourism in & around the general area. I feel that the casino would cause a lot of people to waste money that they should be using to buy food & clothing for their families; not to mention paying their house payments & taxes! I feel that the crime rate would go up because of those with gambling addictions needing to `feed` their addiction, if you will. My prayer is that this casino will not go in! Thank you for your consideration.

My wife and I have visited Gettysburg twice. We look forward to coming back a third time. We would never think of visiting Gettysburg for the purpose of gambling. We come for the history, to remember, to pay tribute and to be inspired. Many of the businesses in the area support a gaming casino. They claim that this will draw more tourism and create more jobs. I submit that these businesses should make the most of what they already have and open their doors for business. The last time my wife and I visited Gettysburg was in October, just before the last casino application was finally defeated. We strolled the streets looking for shops to visit. More than half the doors were locked! My advice to the business people in Gettysburg, stop whining about how poor business is and open your doors. If they can't make it in the midst of one of the most popular tourist destinations in the US, they should relocate and get a job with a casino.

Gettysburg Battlefield and the area surrounding it is one of our nation`s most hallowed grounds, second only, perhaps, to Arlington National Cemetery and the nation`s many other national cemeteries. It would be inappropriate and a desecration for a facility and activity such is proposed to exist adjacent or near this ground.

James O. Carson

Lieutenant Colonel, US Army (Retired)

This is my first comment on an issue such as this. However, I feel the magnitude of this debates dictates imput of everyone concerned. For this is a national issue, not a township, county or state issue. Gettysburg is Hallowed Ground and Pennyslvania is the custiodian for the whole nation. Casinos have their place, but Gettysburg is not one of them. This is not a vote against the casino, but for Gettysburg.

Gambling does not help those who can't afford to gamble

Name: **Vicki Loy** State: **MD** County: **Washington** ID: **1744** RegID: **1928**

Do not hollow the grounds of Gettysburg

I don't oppose casinos. I do, however, oppose the location of the casino. Surely there is a more appropriate location than Gettysburg's Hallowed Ground. I do not live in Pennsylvania, but I trust Pennsylvania to preserve and protect the National Treasue that is Gettysburg. I was born and raised in Charles Town, West Virginia and it deeply bothers me that you are using that town as a justification for another vote on this issue

Although I now live in Texas, I was born in Harrisburg and, as a boy, went to Gettysburg often. Two years ago, my family and I flew into Baltimore, so we could drive into Gettysburg and spend a week on this sacred site. A casino is not right for this area. Moreover, we would not have come to Gettysburg, nor spent one dime there, to support a casino. We came to learn and to pay tribute to the fallen. Please do not approve this casino.

My grandfather took me to Gettysburg in 1962. During that visit, he took me to the area in front of Devils Den. We walked into the woods, toward the Rose Farm to a place where his grandfather had brought him as a child. My great-great grandfather was a union sharpshooter who volunteered to serve until the war ended, to preserve the Union. The area he was defending looks straight toward the site where the proposed casino would sit.

Gettysburg is already pressured by suburban sprawl from DC and Baltimore. Additionally, a number of businesses are capitalizing on the Gettysburg name in order to grow their business. In other words, Gettysburg may be reaching a tipping point where this growth will choke the significance of the battle itself. This is not only hallowed ground, it is the most hallowed battlefield in the country. A casino can be placed anywhere. Why not ten miles up or down the road?

The board has previously denied a license to a casino in Gettysburg. What is so different now?

Dear Commissioners,

Last week I stayed for a few days in a quaint California town named Solvang. Population 5332 last census v. Gettysburg's 7490. Like Gettysburg, Solvang is a destination town, built in quaint Danish style, with shops and eateries. It is used to tourist influxes and tour buses, especially on weekends. Like Gettysburg, it has one main street, and a grid of side streets.

Staying for a few days, I had time to observe massive traffic jams, when it was hard to make left turns, and you backed up maybe a quarter mile at the traffic signal coming into town. My motel was near the edge of town. I was mystified and asked the locals.

Their answer was that all these cars were going to the Chumash Indian Casino, a very modest casino on the far side of town. I was surprised that so many people went after work, and at the hours of the traffic jam.

There are no chain stores in Solvang, and the little restaurants are family owned, or small business owned. I ate in one where 50 years ago, the family hand painted the accoustical ceiling tiles to resemble the kind of ceiling found in Medieval Danish buildings. Yes, there are a few stains on these old tiles, but the effect is charming and the food delicious and reasonable. This family owned restaurant now competes with the draw of the subsidized buffet at the casino.

Now, I think it's cool Indians have found a niche for earning a living, but I also have an eye out for the health of the small family businesses that create many jobs and are a mainstay of the American economy.

Do you? Or do you think the family businesses should close and they all go to work for a mega casino company for minimum wage?

I do not know you as individuals, and do not know your hearts, if you are truly open to reviewing all the facts about the impact this casino at the Eisenhower property would have on Gettysburg, a town I have also visited frequently.

I would like to think you will take the time to read my comments. I know from experience that not all government council or board members read their packets in full. I hope you do.

Sincerely,
Robin Young

I just want to add my voice to the growing chorus against a casino anywhere near the hallowed ground of Gettysburg. I have visited the site more than a dozen times and have deeply appreciated how the greater area has restrained itself from developing the area in a way that detracts from the beauty and historical value of America's most important battlefield.

I am not a citizen of Pennsylvania or of Monroe County. Therefore I can only say that I trust that you will understand and act in such a way that underscores your understanding of your solemn duty to protect the National Treasure which is Gettysburg National Park. For Gettysburg is a National Treasure that happens to be located in Pennsylvania and under the protection of that State and its citizens for the good of the country

The Gettysburg battlefield and national monument is no place for a gambling casino. Such an establishment would defile and make meaningless the sacrifices that were made on this hallowed ground and demean the purpose of this monument. Do we want to be remembered by future generations as the people who chose to keep this part of our national history serene and unspoiled--or as the people who permitted our heritage and the remembrance of our fallen heroes to be sullied by greed? To my thinking, the revenue generated by a casino at Gettysburg is not worth the degradation of the Gettysburg monument. Casinos attract an undesirable element of people no matter what their owners say or how `high-class` the place is touted to be. I visited Gettysburg as a child when we lived in Pennsylvania and remember it as a dignified, serene park where the fallen were honored. I most certainly would not want to have to pass a casino almost at the entrance to the park, or have to worry about its loud, rowdy, possibly drunken patrons driving through the park and disturbing the peace! Surely with your money (the only thing that seems to matter to Mason-Dixon Resorts and any other casino owners) you could find another piece of property away from Gettysburg to build your gambling hall. And if you think that anyone visiting Gettysburg would stop off at your casino to waste their money, think again. For the few who might do so, the majority would wince at the very thought...

Gettysburg is a national treasure not to be defaced or defamed in any way. It serves to define who we are as a nation not only to the citizens but to the world. Gettysburg is America. The responsibility for preservation passes on from generation to generation. It is now our turn and responsibility to ensure that Gettysburg remains what it is and what it has been since the battle fought there in our Civil War and president Lincoln`s consecration of that battlefied and cemetary of the fallen. A slots facility serves to defame The Gettysburg and has no place there whatsoever. There are places for slots parlors, but not at Gettysburg. We must preserve Gettysburg for the nation and the world today and the future. There is no other choice but to deny the slots facility application. It now the obligation to the nation for the Pennsylvannia Gaming Control Board to defend Gettysburg.

I do oppose this casino - not because it is a casino, but because of its proposed location. I feel the same about the proposed Mosque in NY so close to Ground Zero. Gettysburg is a National Treasure that needs to be protected by the State of Pennsylvania and Fayette County for the nation. This is not a local issue, it is a national one. And in these times, we need to remember and revere our heritage, not desicrate it.

I have provided speciality goods for Abraham`s Lady for the last eleven years, therefore I feel that I have ties to this community. It was my great love of history that I sought out a job that was connected with history as I left a decent career at a high tech company to do so.

I will be direct. There are plenty of other places for you to seek out and build your resort in the state of PA. The proposal for a casino has already been defeated once, but I am not surprised that you are too thick to realize you are not wanted. Try building it outside of Yellowstone National Park, below Mt. Rushmore, or Arlington Cemetery, because to people like you it is all the same: just dirt and trees with things like available hot water, carvings you can do laser light show around, and neighbors that won`t make any fuss about casino traffic because they are dead. (Not that you care they are our honored war dead who have kept this country safe, free and in once piece!)

Gettysburg is hallowed ground and stage to one of the most important historic events in our country`s history. Not a stage for show girls in rhinestone bikinis.

This is a place where people pay homage to their heritage and to the sacrifice of soldiers on both sides of the conflict. If these souls could ever be resurrected there is many a descendent, historian and reenactor who would be honored to shake their hands. We don`t want to shake hands with one of your one-armed jacks.

We bring our children here to immerse themselves in history, and the odds of how the tides could have been turned if the 20th ME Infantry had not charged down Little Round Top, and if the Confederate charge had been a success. We don`t want to discuss the odds of winning at the roulette table, or at Black Jack.

In short, you don`t belong here nor the kind of people your resort would bring. People seek out Gettysburg for a specific reason. People have never wanted to come here to play poker.

I was personally very glad that some of the most noted names in historic film making and actors came together to send you a subtle message.

Mine is more direct.

Go AWAY! You are NOT wanted HERE! (and take your poker chips with you).

I oppose the casino at Gettysburg. I visited Gettysburg in the summer of 2001 and found it to be the highlight of my teaching career. To see the Minnesota monument was moving. As a retiree, in the waning years of my life, I have come to the conclusion that preservation of historic sites is more important than profits for casinos. If we donot preserve these sacred sites from mercenary encroachments, future generations will never experience what I had experienced in 2001. Please-----
No casinos at Gettysburg!

I have watched the flag draped coffins being taken off the planes knowing that these soldiers gave their `full measure of devotion` to defend our shores from those who would destroy us. Putting an establishment such as a casino is thumbing your nose not only at those who died long ago to make this country whole, but also at any who have died this way. You would not walk on the grave of a soldier who died in World War II or in Afghanistan. Please respect those who died in the summer of 1863.

Name: **Pamela P. Conrad** State: **NC** County: **Union** ID: **1760** RegID: **1932**

A casino can be built anywhere. Those inside don't care what is outside, as long as the games are fun and fair. Put the casino somewhere besides on the ground where men lay dying to build this nation.

Those who go to casinos don't really care where they are located as long as they can gamble. There are other places that the casino can be built. Please do not build this kind of establishment on the ground where men died so that this country could be whole.

I respectfully request that the casino NOT be built on this land. In my opinion, it desecrates the honor of all the men and women of the civil war.

I think that it not being built would show generations to come that America still has honor and morals.

I think it is very important that our honoring the sacrifice the men of 1860-1865 made, especially on this particular battlefield of Gettysburg, will be a wonderful example to the citizens of America and other countries that we do know what is actually important. We can show that greed will not overcome honor.

Thank you!

Those who attend a casino do not care where it is located. They don't look outside. They come to gamble. It is all about money. There are other places to build a casino. Please do not build a casino on the ground where men died to make this country whole.

I would like to speak about my opposition to a casino by the Gettysburg battlefield. The proposed casino is in the general area of South Calvary field. There are monuments to regiments located less than 500 feet from the proposed site. It shouldn't be placed here not now..not ever.

If one looks at Vicksburg, and what the area has become, with pawn shops and check cashing places, it has become a small part of what it used to be.

If we lose this battle, in preventing a casino in the area of the Gettysburg battlefield, I feel we will lose the war... Who is to say that another investor won't want to put a casino by Pearl Harbor, or Mount Rushmore. There are other places to have a casino.. but PLEASE not here.. not now not ever.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter

Jim Coyle

I have walked the killing fields of the Antietam Battlefield and also Gettysburg. And get a feeling of reverance and awe for the men who died on these fields. In my opinion the proposed casino will demean this feeling. Build it somewhere else not on a reverred site like Gettysburg. Its like putting a casino in the middle of a church.

This second attempt is a poor choice and a waste of time, effort and money.

You just keep trying til you get the answer you want apparently.

Build it SOMEWHERE ELSE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Bob Nolton, Westminster, MD

There seems to be an easy solution to the dilemma faced by the Commission with respect to the casino license application by Mason-Dixon. Grant the license to one of the other locations where the opposition is far less and the detrimental impact on the area will be negligible.

By now you have been inundated with information regarding the pros and cons of locating the casino near the Gettysburg National Military Park, so nothing I can say would be substantially different. That said, I must go on record as adamantly opposing the Mason Dixon application. The integrity of the area will be sacrificed by the intrusion of such a facility so near the Park. The sacred ground associated with the Battle goes well beyond just the Park boundaries, particularly along the Emmitsburg Pike where the proposed casino would be located.

There are alternative locations available for the last casino license. Please select one of these other sites and in doing so protect the heritage of the Gettysburg area that is so important to America

A. Roy Smith

Chairman, Board of Directors

Preservation Pennsylvania

Although I am not a Pennsylvania resident, I have spent many vacations, and left a goodly portion of my money with the good merchants of Gettysburg. Thus, I hope that I may be extended the privilege of voicing my concerned opinions about this contentious issue. As someone who cares deeply about our nation's history, and the history of our Civil War, I cannot imagine anyone wanting to build a gambling casino anywhere near such a hallowed and haunted place as the Gettysburg Battlefield. I had three of my own ancestors who were members of the 9th VA Infantry Regiment that were killed in action in Pickett's Charge, and they were buried in unmarked graves on that field. Although their remains were returned to VA in 1871, they now rest among the thousands of fellow-unknown soldiers who died for a cause and comrades that they cared deeply about. In part to honor them, I was a privileged to be a re-enactor for over twenty years, and I have presented living history programs in Pitzer's Woods for the NPS for many, consecutive summers. Through giving these public programs, I quickly came to realize that the general public wants, and certainly needs to continue hearing about the stories of the human struggles that took place there; for the sake of personal ideals and American values that we cherish, hold dear, and celebrate today. This battlefield park, and the larger communities that surround it, are truly `special` places; some of the very few places in our nation that urgently need to be set apart from what now too-often passes for `normal` commercial development; typically done in the pursuit of the almighty dollar, and oftentimes regardless of whether such development is really needed and/or makes sense, or not. Therefore, I would urged; yea plead, with the members of the Gaming Commission; to please, please not allow this remarkable and hallowed American landscape to be sullied and degraded by allowing the future construction of any type of gambling establishment within at least a 25-mile radius of this blood-soaked, hallowed, and character defining, sacred place. Thank you for your time; and your willingness to listen and consider the moral and ethical imperatives that are involved in this critically important issue; one that resonates and touches all Americans, far beyond the borders of your great Commonwealth. I thank you, and all other Americans; those now living and those unborn, will also thank you for not allowing the desecration of this sacred place and historic landscape of American memory. M. Kent Brinkley, Williamsburg, VA, USA.

My namesake, Thomas Hollick`s name is on the 95th Pennsylvania Tablet of the Pennsylvania Monument. I grew up 35 miles from Gettysburg, One of my most poignant memories is when my father took us in 1942 to Gettysburg Battle field when I was 5 years old. WW II was in its first year and our neighbor`s son, Gerald, had just been killed while serving in the Army Air Corps. We (my brother and I) couldn`t understand why Gerald had to die. We had known him all of our short lives. Dad took us to Gettysburg to explain why Countries go to war and that good people die to stand-up for and protect what they believe in.

I didn`t take in much of Gettysburg then. I remembered names and phrases like The Devils Den, Little Round Top, Pickett`s Charge, but it wasn`t until almost 60 years latter that I went back again with my wife and toured the Battlefield. We have been back three times since that trip spending two to three days per trip. Each visit I look at Thomas`s name on the Tablet and try to imagine all of the sacrifice, effort, and hardship he went through. He served at 1st Manassas to Lee`s surrender at Appomatox. That dedication, sacrifice, and service is the Symbol that Gettysburg portrays to me.

When my stepson became a member of the Marine Corps 1st Recon Battalion, I gave him two derringers that Thomas carried at Gettysburg as recognition of his service to his country.

To me the Town of Gettysburg and The Battlefield are inseparable. As Lincoln said this is Hallowed Ground. I DO NOT think that they should be associated with a project to make money for anyone. There is plenty of land in this country to put a money making machine that would not Tread on the Honored Service of so many Blue and Gray soldiers. Let the developers of the Casino put forth the sacrifices that these brave souls have done, and then come back and look us in the eye and say that Gettysburg is the ONLY place they can put their casino.

Thank you,

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Thank you,

George Hollick Hiddemen III

Control Board,

I believe that by putting a Casino next to the hallowed ground in Gettysburg would be a national tragedy. By making the decision to allow such a place, you will surely scar our historic battlefield. When you think about it, this all comes down to money. How much would you sell out for if it was your son that had given his life on this sacred field? Please vote NO for putting the casino next to the battlefield at Gettysburg. Thank-you

Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board

Dear Gaming Control Board members:

I am a native Arizonan and did not realize I had any Civil War ancestors until approximately 15 years ago. My wife is the great-granddaughter of Private Elam Carr Hamilton, Co. F, 9th Alabama Infantry - a survivor of Gettysburg and Pickett's Charge.

I first visited Gettysburg with her during May of 1995; a foggy morning made the park seem very ghostly, particularly when the monuments loomed out of the mist. As the day passed, the fog burned off and we walked all of the areas that her great-grandpa likely traversed during the battle; the experience was very moving and religious in nature for both of us.

As a result of this initial visit, I began to search for any possible Civil War ancestors in my family. To my surprise, I discovered large (!!!!) numbers of both Union (mother's side) and Confederate (father's side) ancestors. My research confirmed that one Union ancestor (Lt. David B. Demarest, Co. E, 1st Minnesota Infantry) was mortally wounded at Gettysburg on July 2, 1863, and one Confederate ancestor (Pvt. John F. Brigham, Co. E, 14th Tennessee Infantry) fought against the Iron Brigade on July 1 and likely took part in Pickett's Charge on July 3, 1863.

During Thanksgiving of 2006, my 10 year old daughter and I drove from Indianapolis to Gettysburg so she could visit/walk the battlefield where her Confederate and Union ancestors had fought. On a rainy Thanksgiving Day, we drove the battlefield while playing Bobby Horton music and inspected markers in between squalls. The day after was bright and sunny, so we walked down to the swale between the 1st Minnesota monument and the Klinge farmhouse, physically experiencing the land fought over by our 1st Minnesota ancestor and my daughter's great-great-grandpa in the 9th Alabama Infantry. It was a father/daughter memory that neither of us will ever forget.

Gettysburg is much, much more than just a park where people can visit and `have a good time` - it IS a religious place where people can commune with their ancestors and viscerally experience their valor and sacrifice. The prospect of a casino being built anywhere near the park is, to use a word, obscene! There is NO reason why the casino cannot be built at least 10 miles away from Gettysburg, perhaps closer to major population centers. Building a casino anywhere near the battlefield will most definitely turn the Gettysburg experience into an `Atlantic City` or `Mexican border town` one.

On behalf of those citizens with and without Civil War ancestors who fought, bled, and died at Gettysburg my wife, daughter, and I STRONGLY urge that Mason-Dixon Resorts, LP NOT be granted permission to build a casino anywhere near the Gettysburg battlefield. Let future visitors experience the visceral, religious experience without the lurid, pandering `cheap thrills` of a casino and the (unfortunately) superficial crowd of addicts that gambling attracts. There are times where economics must be subservient to our history, traditions, and values as Americans - this IS one of those time!!!

Thank you for this opportunity to submit written comments re the proposed casino.

sincerely,

Kenneth E. Byrd, PhD

Associate Professor
Dept. of Anatomy & Cell Biology
Indiana University School of Medicine

Name: **Robert Nolton** State: **MD** County: **MD** ID: **1777** RegID: **1941**

Very bad idea. Put it somewhere else. If it cannot draw people to its doors based on it being a casino then perhaps it's not really that viable then.

I cannot tell you how upset I am at the idea of this being done to Gettysburg.

They blew up the tower and now you're going to put this in? I'd rather have the stupid tower back.

Bob Nolton, Westminster MD

You`ve got to be kidding! What part of `NO` don`t you understand?

A casino? Why not a theme park? prostitution? What the heck, I`ll make lots of money for the state. Right?

Bob Nolton, Westminster, MD

I grew up in Carroll Co Md and have been to Gettysburg Battlefield many times, as has most of my family. There is simply no reason to allow the bright lights, noise, traffic and pollution associated with a casino in this location, moral issues about gambling aside. This is an extremely important site in American history and must be preserved, including its environs. Why should it be cheapened just so a few can make money on a short term? Please do not allow this to take place

I believe Mason-Dixon has the right to build a casino in Adams county, but NOT in Gettysburg. This is hallowed ground! It is our responsibility and duty to protect this land for those men who gave the last full measure of devotion to their country. The veterans of the Civil War are not hear to fight for these grounds, we must be their voice. What would you think if you saw on the news that a group of investors where planning to build a casino resort less than a mile for the beaches in Normandy? Or will it be alright after the last WWII veteran has passed away? Please keep Gettysburg sacred, please say NO to Mason-Dixon LP again, and honor all veterans of this Great land.

Dear Gaming Control Board Members:

Gettysburg, not just the battlefield, but the whole city, is hallowed ground. It is where men fought for their country, and fought for their rights. That land, the land in which you plan to construct a place of debauchery- a casino- is sacred to the United States of America- the country and the people- and history, alike. If you go through with building this casino, you will tarnish sacred ground and insult the men who fought there. Gettysburg is a place of memories, as I visited with my father in Thanksgiving 2006, and we walked the land where my great-great-great grandfather, in the 9th Alabama infantry, likely participated in Pickett`s Charge.

Please don`t desecrate this sacred ground, this ground that means so much to me, my family, America, and its history.

Respectfully yours,

Catherine Byrd, 14 years old.

Name: **John J. Dietz** State: **Mi** County: **Wayne** ID: **1783** RegID: **1955**

As a citizen of this great nation,I wish to recommend that you, oppose the proposal to place a casino near the greatest battlefield in the continental U.S. To do otherwise is to reduce the memory of the men that fought during these three monumental days. Please do what is right and is honorable. Please oppose the proposal for the casino. Thank You.

Name: **Robert S. Resig** State: **Pa** County: **York** ID: **1784** RegID: **1956**

nywhere in Adams County is too close to our Hallowed Ground at Gettysburg.

In a city known for the men who stood for their convictions, I hope the people of Gettysburg will stand for businesses that are based on service and value and honor, rather than those based on taking advantage of its own citizens for the benefit of the Resort. If we have money to spare, let us use it to benefit our young, our old, and our city rather than to gamble on the slim chance of enriching ourselves, and in the process perpetuate a game in which everyone but the resort loses.

As a descendant of Alabama and Tennessee soldiers who spilled their blood at Gettysburg I implore you to stop this intrusion on the sacred ground where they and thousands of other of this nation`s young men gave the last full measure. To allow this casino to go forward is an insult to their memory and legacy.

Anthony Hodges, D.D.S.
Chattanooga, TN

It is a sad day in America when a resort designed around gambling is permitted to be built within 50 miles of our national treasure: Gettysburg. This site represents a pivotal moment in the history of America and should remain a revered and respected geographical space in the landscape. Gettysburg is also a huge gravesite. It is well known that ancestor worship or veneration of the dead is an integral aspect of all cultures. People need to know where they've been so they can understand where they need to go.

We all are worried about the poor economic status and lack of employment in the US. A casino and resort could generate much needed revenue but such a facility would be just as viable 50 or more miles from Gettysburg. Please come to your senses and protect Gettysburg permanently from any encroachment, present or future, that generates any feelings other than reverence and respect for our history in this sacred town. Thank You. Lynn Gamarel, RDH, BA

Name: **James Seewagen** State: **MD** County: **Howard** ID: **1788** RegID: **1967**

I visited Gettysburg Battlefield National Park 6 separate times last fall. I walked and walked almost every part of the battleground. I am in another world when I walk this bucolic, serene setting and contemplate the events here almost 150 years ago. Please do not let this ill advised casino ruin this hallowed ground forever. Thank you.

Jim Seewagen

Name: **Bradford D. Parkhurst** State: **NH** County: **Hillsborough** ID: **1790** RegID:
1968

I have walked the Gettysburg Battlefield where my Great Grandfather(a farmer from VT) fought to preserve our Nation and feel the building of a Casino near the Battlefield would be an injustice to all those soldiers (both North and South) who fought there. It would be a disgrace. My ancestors also fought to establish our Independence. I am retired Army. Gettysburg is a very important legacy of the United States of America. Do not succumb to developers whose only visions are dollar signs!!!

Dear Members of the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board,

First, I am a native born Pennsylvanian. I graduated from Dickinson College at Carlisle, PA, not far from Gettysburg.

I have visited Gettysburg many times. I have stood where Lincoln stood. I have viewed the graves of those who died there with tears in my eyes. This battle site is probably the most important memorial we have in the United States. It is more than a statue or granite remembrance such as we find in Washington D.C. It is the place of our history and our American soul. How could anyone possibly think of desecrating such a site? Once action is taken to allow a casino near this site, it can never be undone.

You wouldn't conceive of putting a casino in Valley Forge, Constitution Hall, or Arlington National Cemetery. How about Mt. Rushmore? Or a floating casino at the sites of the sunken battleships in Pearl Harbor?

Gettysburg is legendary to this country. The sacrifices made by men from both sides should not be demeaned. It would be a national shame to allow this desecration. For Pennsylvania it would be a sign to the nation that you don't care about our national heritage. Don't allow this abomination. Please preserve this area for our children and our nation!

Allen D. Field

We come to Gettysburg from all over this country (and beyond) to pay respectful honor to all those, Union and Confederate, who fought here. We honor especially those who gave their lives for what they believed.

It is utterly inappropriate to have in the vicinity an entertainment complex such as the one proposed. The additional traffic and other services would be reason enough to oppose it. The disrespect to what is some of our most hallowed ground would be unbearable.

By allowing gambling in Gettysburg, you will be signing your own `death warrant`. Those of us who visit often and bring along our children will no longer wish to subject ourselves or our children to the seedy industry which you will be allowing to take over your community. Gettysburg`s image will be irreparably damaged. Please keep Gettysburg pure. After all, it is a national treasure! Is gambling really what you want our nation to be known for? I think not. I am against gambling in Gettysburg.

To the powers that be, I ask, that you reach back to November 19th 1863, and remember a great speech, by a great man, that left his audience silent, and think about just a few words from that great speech . Words like Dedicate, Final Resting Place, Consecrate, Hallowed Ground, Struggle, Brave Men, Long Remember, Never Forget, Honored Dead, Shall Not In Vain !
And think twice, before you dishonor their sacrafice !

I am a historian with ten Civil War books to my credit, including five related to the Battle of Gettysburg. As a resident of adjoining York County, I am opposed to idea of a casino that close to the Gettysburg battlefield. For many years, our history group (Historical Miniature Gaming Society) has held our annual fall convention at the Eisenhower Conference Center and adjacent All-Star Sports Complex. We have taken pride that the convention was on the battlefield and gamers could recreate Civil War battles on the ground where Union cavalry deployed for action. While we have moved our convention to Lancaster for the foreseeable future, the Ike still holds memories. Please do not allow a casino to be built there. Give the license to a less controversial spot such as the Poconos or Penn Harris.

I am utterly opposed to a casino near the Gettysburg National Historical Park. There are, literally, hundreds of casinos available for those who wish to participate in such activities, but there is only one Gettysburg. Gettysburg, with its unique place in our nation`s history, should be preserved as unencumbered as possible.

Please DO NOT allow a casino to be built anywhere near this national treasure of our country. Thousands of men have given their lives here at this site. Even though it is not within the park boundaries the entire area around Gettysburg is hallowed ground. I do not go to Gettysburg to have `fun`, I go there to honor the men who died there, to learn about the battle that preserved the Union, that battle turned the tide of the Union. I can tell you that if a casino is built in Gettysburg, many people I know would not frequent that location. What is next, dishonoring our other heritage sites in order to make a buck. Sometimes we have to say `NO`. Give the licenses to the other sites, do not Approve a casino at Gettysburg. Thank you, and I hope you have visited the battlefield and understand the significance of the surrounding area.

Gettysburg is sacred ground. I visted the park in 1967 as a boy and it made a lasting impression. I visted the park with my children and it moved my son to pursue a PhD in history.

Gettysburg is a national memorial. It must be preserved for all future generations and not be tarnished by greed.

The board needs to search their soul and in so doing the decision to reject this proposal should be clear.

Do the right thing for all future generations.

Bill Rozek

I am a non-resident of Pennsylvania but have spent a couple of days a year since my retirement coming up to Gettysburg. Gettysburg is a quiet sacred place where I can spend some time walking the the battlefield and thinking about what it was like to have fought here. Gettysburg is small town whose notoriety only comes from the great battle fought there and yet draws thousands of people year.

It is my feelings that putting a casino so close to the battlefield that it will completely change the charter of the area and the only reason for it being placed so close to the battlefield is the owners feel they need the popularity of the Gettysburg Battlefield to get enough people to make their casino profitable.

We should not give up the sacredness and serenity of this Battlefield for a few bucks in profit for a few owners and few low paying jobs.

Please DO NOT support the casino.

I have toured Gettysburg with my father since I was eight. I reenacted as a Federal corporal in the late eighties and was at the 125th anniversary reenactment. I have probably toured the field over 15 times, mostly on a bike with books on my back. On the one hand, I believe in battlefield preservation. I was appalled at the needle tower at Cemetery hill and cheered when it was brought down.

But that was on the field.

I have check maps and websites provide by those `for` and those `against`. Those `against` say that Merrit under Fitzpatrick staged his cavalry attack on July 3rd from the site of the proposed casino. Actually, that ground is already occupied by a trailer park. And to claim it was significant? They slept there. Their horses took a crap there. The 1st Texas they attacked were exhausted from Little Round Top the day before. ALL significant action was to the north, on any of the three days. If bivouac areas are hallowed ground, then why is there a strip mall and a strip mine to the southwest of Lake Heritage? The entire Union Army slept there.

Three points I would make. Any casino built there would need to respect the honor of the armies that fought there. That means NO cheesy displays including neon Confederate flags or cocktail waitresses dressed up as Confederate and Federal zouaves walking around with drink trays. Additionally, I would propose a percentage of the house winnings to go directly to a National Park managed battlefield preservation fund. Finally, if the anti casino proponents are that set on preventing this site, then organize a campaign to secure the land for MDR two miles south of the site where the Emmitsburg Road and Route 15 merge. Looks like farmland to me, and at best you might have only had a scraggler or two who took a crap there.

Respectfully
John Brewster

Name: **Richard L. Unger**

State: **PA**

County: **Adams**

ID: **1805**

RegID: **1993**

I oppose the Mason-Dixon Resorts Facility in Adams County. I have nothing to gain if the Facility fails. Those who support it have much to gain if it succeeds. (MONEY) . Must everything be based on (MONEY), what I have to gain or loose.

The idea of a casino on one of the historic approaches to the Gettysburg National Historical Park is extremely ill-conceived. I live near the National Register Cripple Creek Historic District in Colorado which also succumbed to the promise of lucrative revenue generated by casinos and gambling. I can tell you from personal experience that any previous interest in preserving the town's historical significance has taken a back seat to other issues. The local city museum is struggling to keep its doors open, the recently completed history center on the approach to the town usually stands empty as tourists are more eager to throw their money down the gullets of slot machines, and little if any progress can be seen in the town's infrastructure or character. True there has been no `urban` sprawl often associated with the inception of gambling & casinos, but this is the exception, not the rule. Another historic location in Colorado has almost been wiped out by the implementation of gambling & casinos. Central City, Colorado was a truly historic setting until the advent of gambling. An adjacent site, Blackhawk was a formerly non-existent town site, with absolutely no surviving structures until the gaming corporations came in and built fake `period` buildings for their casinos, hotels, and resorts. Since the new Blackhawk was on the approach to Central City (as would be the casino at Gettysburg), the tourists, gamblers, and busses stop at Blackhawk instead of moving on to the true historical setting. Non-native visitors leave thinking they have seen something truly historic when they have only been `taken for a ride` as is the case with most gambling enterprises. The end result is that the fake Blackhawk prospers while the historic Central City is dying. Don't let this happen at Gettysburg. Preserve, protect, and defend this truly Hallowed Ground. Permitting the construction of a casino would only serve to de-consecrate the area and make a mockery of President Lincoln's call to honor.

Paul Martin

Name: **Ruth Jean Unger** State: **PA** County: **Adams** ID: **1807** RegID: **1995**

I oppose the Resorts Facility in Adams County. Only a few stand to gain if it succeeds with everyone else loosing.

Name: **Ellen M. Bansfield** State: **MA** County: **Worcester** ID: **1808** RegID: **1996**

Gettysburg is a place to honor the falled soldiers. It is NOT for gambling. To put a casino there would be showing disrespect to those who died there.

Name: **Ellen M. Bansfield** State: **MA** County: **Worcester** ID: **1809** RegID: **1996**

People lost their lives there. It should NOT be a place for gambling. That is a blatant show of disrespect.

Please do not show such disrespect to the fallen soldiers. Gettysburg is a place to honor their memory, not to gamble.

Soldiers gave their lives there. Please do NOT show such disrespect to their memory.

I am opposed to the planned casino/slots facility near Gettysburg.

I visited Gettysburg in high school and even then, as a self-absorbed teenager, felt the impact of the battlefield. Since then, I have come to understand more about the events of that place and time, and would like to visit again, to absorb and understand more of what happened. This is particularly true since befriending someone who worked in historic Gettysburg as a docent/historical interpreter, and discussing her master`s thesis on Kitty Payne.

Should a casino/slots facility be approved, I would want to come to Gettysburg NOW, before the changes in the economic structure of the community, before the character of the area changes. However, my own economic situation would currently prevent me from doing so. After the introduction and expansion of gaming/gambling into the Gettysburg area, I would be considerably LESS likely to visit.

One of the reasons I enjoyed Gettysburg is because it seemed as though everyone who came was there because of the historical significance of the place -- from history buffs and student groups, to parents taking their sometimes reluctant children through the history of our country. Their focus -- regardless of degree of enthusiasm -- was on the place, on the history, on the sacrifice of blood.

The introduction of gambling would bring an entirely different set of people to the area; people with different interests and different priorities. Gambling, with its ancillary activities and attendant problems, would burden the community. Increased alcohol and drug use, increased addiction, increased crime, increased welfare -- all are likely.

A casino/slots facility would also adulterate the focus of visitors. People who visit for historical enrichment could become less certain of the motivations -- and tolerance -- of other visitors. Instead of driving slowly to soak up the atmosphere -- secure in the knowledge others will understand their lingerings -- visitors may fear to pause and appreciate the terrible beauty of the Gettysburg battlefield.

And that, indeed, would be a tragedy.

I first visited Gettysburg in the fall of 1959, while a junior in High School. I was awe struck by the magnitude of the historic importance of the battlefield and have returned, alone and with my family on several occasions throughout my life. I urge the officials to whom the responsibility is given, to preserve the integrity of this internationally important site. While I understand that the proposed casino is not adjacent to the battlefield sites, its presence in the locale will surely detrimentally affect the overall ambience of the area.

My wife`s great-great grandfather was captured on the third day of the battle while engaging the Union forces as a member of the 40th Virginia Infantry, on the left flank of `Picketts Charge`, and his legacy of service and sacrifice and that of thousands of now long dead Americans should be considered in the decision making process. Please do not allow the casino.

Please do not allow the proposed casino near Gettysburg. I first visited the battlefield when a junior in High School in 1959 and have returned many times since; both alone and with my family. My wife`s great-great grandfather was captured on the third day of the battle in `Picketts Charge` while serving with the 40th Virginia Infantry. His legacy of service and sacrifice as well as that of thousand of long dead Americans should be now considered. Please reject the proposed casino.

I oppose the location of the proposed casino near Gettysburg. I first visited the battlefiel while a junior in high school in 1959 and have returned alone and with my family on several occasions throughout my life. My wife`s great-great grandfather was captured in `Picketts Charge` on the third day of thebattle whil serving with the 40th Virginia Infantry. His legacy of service sacrifice and that of thousand of long dead Americans should not be forgotten Please reject the proposed casino.

Please reject the proposed casino near Gettysburg.

Please do not desecrate the hallowed ground of Gettysburg with a casino.

Please honor the sacrifice of the many Americans who died on this battlefield by preserving an atmosphere of reverence, respect and quiet reflection.

Please, please, please . . . no casino near Gettysburg.

It is imperative the dignity and respect earned by the people who fought and died there be totally maintained, now and forever, and especially so my grandchildren, and my great grandchildren and all who follow, be it within my family and/or all others may visit such hallowed grounds to learn what happened there and pay their due respects in the solemn atmosphere such a places demands, deserves and must be accorded.

It is unconscionable that any group of sound thinking Americans would even consider agreeing to a casino any where near the most hallowed ground in America. Those who lost their lives at Gettysburg did so in support of an ideal. Those who would put a casino near this hallowed ground are simply seeking to profit from the carnage that took place on that battlefield. There is a growing sense among people in our country that money trumps everything and that people in elected and appointed positions are simply seeking to feather their own nests. Allowing a casino near Gettysburg would simply provide confirmation of that theory.

I am a parent, citizen, and a firm believer that our country`s history provides valuable lessons for all of us. While I live far from Gettysburg, and have not yet had the chance to visit, I have visited several other Civil War sites. One of the things that has always struck me is how by visiting a battlefield one can see the terrain and the surrounding area, and understand what the combatants experienced far better than by reading or watching a video. The powerful impact of standing where soldiers stood and seeing the terrain they fought for really brings the story to life. I remember how I felt standing in the Sunken Road and imagining how it must have felt to be there under enemy fire, seeing your comrades die around you.

Part of the visual experience associated with these battlefields is preserving as much area as possible in a condition close to the way it was at the time of the battle. Seeing the cornfield at Antietam is much more meaningful than seeing a fast-food restaurant next to a sign with a picture of the cornfield with the corn mowed down by bullets and littered with the bodies of fallen soldiers. When I do visit Gettysburg, I hope that I do not look down from some vantage point and try to visualize what our soldiers saw, only to have to try to impose that mental image over the very real presence of a casino.

Please understand that while casinos may have their place in this area, that place is not next to one of this country`s most important historical sites. Here in Michigan we have many casinos, and I know firsthand the traffic and other impacts of these facilities. I urge you to reject this application to place a casino in such close proximity to the Gettysburg battlefield.

Thank you for your consideration.

Before the Hearing I tried to register to speak but was confused by the process. I entered a short written comment. The following is the speech I would have given had the opportunity been available. I am a written testimony registered # 1668 and I guess whatever number is issued to this letter. If only one is allowed please discard # 1668 Thank you.

My name is Danuel Smith, I am a resident of Gettysburg, a volunteer with the local Fire department as well as a US. Army veteran. I am Married and have a five year old Son who just started kindergarten.

The Issue before us today is simple. Will a Casino if placed here be profitable for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania? I personally believe it will. With the location so close to the Maryland border and Centrally located in Pennsylvania it has the potential to draw in gamblers from the mid state as well as the Tri state area. We all stand to profit from year round tourism.

Yes the battlefield is sacred ground the turning point in our nations Civil War and needs to be preserved. You will not find very many people who will contest that. But we must also make sure people come to visit. We don't have a marketable product we can sell over the internet. Our livelihood is based on people coming to Gettysburg and spending money. Be it in the hotels, shops, restaurants and bars. But once they leave they take their trinkets and memories with them. While the history buffs are likely to return, the families and kids on school trips are not. That is the problem with our attraction, for most one trip is enough to say yep "I was there and I saw what I wanted to see."

However with the added draw of the Casino more people will be coming here. Some just for the gambling sure but others will come for both. as well as the heritage tourist who have been coming and will continue to come to Gettysburg for years. The National Military Park does not become less sacred based on its neighbors. If that was the case 90% of Gettysburg, including the building we are meet in would have never been built. Some would say that those who are against the Casino want to preserve the Battlefield. The problem I have with that is this Casino has the potential to jumpstart visitation in Gettysburg. Which has been on a steady decline over the last few years. Some blame the economic downturn of the country but I feel it is a sign that slowly but surely the Battle is being forgotten. Obviously not by those of us who live here but by the rest of the nation. When I was in High school I was living in San Diego, California what I learned in public school about the Battle of Gettysburg was what came from the Movie. We spent 2 days watching the movie. That was in the mid 1990s, With the cut backs in education do you really thing the lesson plan has gotten any better. If we don't do something this town will eventually run out of money. Gettysburg Borough's yearly budget problems are a testament to that. We can't support the public services needed to be a tourist town if our tourism dries up. Each year less and less people are coming to visit the battlefield. Leaving less and less money behind. So sooner or later the bills have to be paid the question is How are we going to pay these bills? With the meager scraps left over from two weeks in July? Or from the profits made year-round from the Visitors to Both the Casino and the Battlefield?

The Jobs from this Casino will help stem the tide of an increasing unemployment rate that has crippled the county, and much of the State, as well as the Nation. Some say the jobs are only part time, low wage and have no future. Even if that was true it would be more than we have now. But we all know that is not true. The full time and full wage jobs will be a boom to this town. Even the jobs that are considered TIP positions have a better chance at making an honest living. Would a waitress in a Casino make more than on in a restaurant. Who knows but what I can say is you catch more fish in a lake than in a swimming pool. People have to go to where the jobs are and to be sure to provide excellent service. A casino offers more customers to serve and likewise a better chance to make money. The casino is offering a Benefit Package to both Full and Part time employees, as well as a 401K plan something rare in this economy.

In addition the Mason Dixon resort has publicly announced they would “Hire Adams First” for the employees who will man the resort but also for the local merchants who will provide goods and services to the resort. These will indirectly increase jobs in the county.

Dave LeVan is a good man trying to help his hometown. He doesn't have to do any of this he could have retired and lived in the lap of luxury. But he chose to return to Gettysburg, to build a new business that in just a few years has become the Hub of deeds around the County. The Business I refer to is Battlefield Harley Davidson. From the Make a Wish Convoy, to the Charity Rides for Fallen Firefighters, Fallen or Injured Police Officers, and Many Many More. (I said before I am a volunteer for the Fire Dept and have on many occasions stood on the road and stopped traffic for these events.) Not to mention the time Money and effort to redo the old Majestic Theater into a Performing Arts Theater. To believe that he wants to do all this good only to build up support for something that will be harmful to this community is just ridicules.

In conclusion I support Mason Dixon in their effort to bring a Casino to Gettysburg.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

As an Educator, I plan to bring my students to the Gettysburg battlefield yearly. However, this will become contentious and also send a mixed message to my students if a casino becomes part of the landscape they see, in close proximity to the Hallowed Grounds that made our Nation: The United States of America. I beg you to please not allow this to happen. Generations to come need to hold these grounds sacred, and our children need to learn to discern the two respectfully. I pray that you will honor all who came there and their families, as well as the citizens of our nation as we need to preserve our heritage and history. Thank you.

I was born in Pittsburgh and raised in Charleroi, Washington County; during my childhood, my father had the great honor to be Chaplain of the Senate of Pennsylvania. During those years, we would travel to Harrisburg where my father would perform his duties and inevitably we would travel to Gettysburg. That town is part of my life, so much so that my child is now in her senior year at Gettysburg College. What I mean to say is that this community is very special to thousands of families, and our memories are of a reverent place, a beautiful place, and a place of great sacrifice. As an adult, I live in Connecticut; I was here when the promise of the casinos swept this state. There are certainly revenues that come from our two casinos, but none of the surrounding communities are the same, most are worse off because of them. I have seen the decline in culture and civic spirit produced by our casinos. Please do not let this happen to one of our most important and hallowed grounds. Like Ground Zero and Shankesville, Gettysburg must not be exploited. I honor the work of the Gaming Control Board, I understand the economic needs of South Central Pennsylvania, and I even respect casinos and the revenues that can be generated, but please do not let it happen here.

I support the proposed casino in Adams County. My feeling about the opponents complaining about the closeness to the `battlefield` is that if we, as citizens, complain about one thing (the casino), we must complain about the other businesses, hotels, grocery stores, convenience stores, etc that are in close proximity to the proposed casino.

I am submitting these comments for Eleanora H. Dillon of the same address, telephone number as Linda Dillon. Eleanora Dillon has a broken rest and is recovering from two serious illnesses within three weeks.

Eleanora Dillon supports the Mason-Dixon Resorts, LP slots facility. She has lived in Adams County for her entire 84 years of life and has worked in a variety of low-paying jobs from her teen years until her retirement at age 66.

Please do not accept the dog and pony show that was provided by No Casino Gettysburg and their supporters. They not only refused to consolidate speakers as asked but they are now broadcasting over the internet that they had a larger turn-out and more speakers than Pro Casino Adams County. As you know, PCAC willingly consolidated speakers in an effort to reduce the testimony time for all parties.

This is an example of just one of the lies and distortions perpetrated by CG in their attempt to manipulate the future of Gettysburg. Please don't buy into their distortion of the truth.

Please select Gettysburg PA as the site for the future LP slots facility when you make your final decision. The true residents of Gettysburg, Adams County, PA will be eternally grateful.

Thank you.

Eleanora H. Dillon

The debate isn't about whether jobs are needed, but against the kind of business, the recognized image of that business, as being the source of new jobs here. Mason Dixon Resorts recognizes the commercial value of associating with the name Gettysburg.

The name Gettysburg is symbolic around the world with honor and valor - which is why the Boy Scouts so highly value the Gettysburg patch and why people from over the world travel to walk on these fields.

The term casino conjures an absolute opposite value clearly described by local contractor and builder Jeff Klein who spoke for about 25 pro-casino people and the pro-casino group. Quoting `Ben` he said people should get used to the idea that business is about `stealing dollars.` He further explained all business is based on stealing dollars from someone. As a business owner I disagree with his view of business. In ours, we expect a fair return for value given.

A casino can not survive unless its customers lose money. It is built and run on the knowledge that most walk out of their facility with less. They do not care if their customer can no longer pay their mortgage or property taxes or feed and clothe their family.

Pennsylvania needs industries that provide productive jobs that support a family, not deplete a home.

Another speaker suggested renovating and using the existing Eisenhower Hotel and complex as a rehab facility for returning soldiers and veterans. Such a use would renovate a run-down hotel and use the name Gettysburg in conjunction with an operation that would provide many professional jobs in addition to part-time work similar to what any large building offers (maintenance, cleaning, food preparation, grounds care, etc).

Natalie Bishop
Yellow Hill Farm in Biglerville PA

As a citizen of the United States and a teacher of U.S. History, I know how important ambience can be to young people trying to get a sense of historical events. The peace, quiet, and somber reverence of the Gettysburg Battlefield would be endangered by casino gambling in its immediate area. If Mason-Dixon Resorts would like to place their casino at a further remove from the battlefield, that would solve the difficulty. Thank you.

Although the hearings have concluded, I am compelled to write additional comments. Pro Casino has mislead you, gentelmen. The primary issue is not more jobs and lower taxes, the issue is preservation of a small historical Civil War town and a sacred American battlefield. I understand that jobs are necessary for our economy, but we already have small businesses within our comminity who are catering to the many visitors from all over the country and the world who visit this most unique town in Pennsylvania. The casino would lure lots of tourists away from the historical atmosphere to a place where money is wasted. Gentlemen, more gamblers lose than win. That fact was never mentioned by the pro side because they just must have their casino. Their arguments are poor and fallacious! The other class three locations are most suited for a casino. There is no great historical connections in those areas as opposed to Gettysburg! Again, please make the right decision, because if not, this little town will never be the same as we know it. (Marv Brilliant)

I was a resident at 541 Curtis Drive in the Lake Heritage subdivision until October, 2006. During my residence in Gettysburg, I spent many weekends and evenings on the battlefield in various places, but mostly at Roundtop, overlooking Devil`s Den. Many people would be in the area at times, and sometimes I was almost alone sitting on the rocks. It`s wonderful when the reenactors come in character and talk with other visitors about their part in the war. Sometimes you would hear a piper, a harmonica player, or a guitarist, playing civil war songs in the quiet evening. The look on the faces of the tourists as they stood quietly was that of traveling back in time, taking them directly to those terrible times of loss, grief, and loneliness.

I truly miss Gettysburg, and come back 3 or 4 times a year, when I make the trip from my home near Hilton Head, SC. There is nothing to compare to living in that place in history, even with the commercial businesses that are currently in the area. However, all would change if you allowed a casino in the area, so close to all that happened. Not only did the battle take place in the town and the area of the Military Park, you must well know that the staging areas to support all those troops from both North and South was all over the area.

Please, please, please, do not vote to allow a casino in the Gettysburg area. It will disrupt the feeling of the area and the town. Gettysburg will always represent a terrible time in our history, but also a time that turned the tide of a nation in peril of being torn asunder.

No Casino Gettysbury!!

Linda J. Perkins
Bluffton, SC

Having grown up in Pennsylvania, I am appalled by the concept of anybody wanting to desecrate the hallowed ground of Gettysburg. Before entering the Air Force, Gettysburg was always a summer trip where I would spend time walking through the battlefield and museums. Through the years as I traveled home to see my parents, I would make a day trip to the battlefield to visit specific areas around the area, even staying in a local Bed and Breakfast. My parents have passed away and after retiring, stayed in North Carolina, but Pennsylvania and the Gettysburg is always on my mind. I am planning my next trip during spring break next year when I will spend several days taking pictures and notes for my Civil War CD set. I would hate that there would be places I could not take pictures, because a casino is in the background messing up the beautiful and hallowed scenery of the battlefield. Please choose another area away from the battlefield.

My great, great grandfather survived this battle and never spoke of it. One can only speculate his silence was due to the casualties and injuries.

Casinos are poor fiscal policy, but to desecrate this site with a predatory industry that depends on creating ADDICTION as their business model should not be considered.

Please, please deny the developer`s petition to open a gambling casino within 1/2 mile of the National Park. Gettysburg is one of the most important battles of our Civil War, and once it is spoiled, there is no going back. On a visit many years ago, my 8 year old son asked why he could see Wendy`s from the site of Pickett`s Charge. He instinctively knew that there are some things that must be kept unspoiled. Please listen to the wisdom of the children and save this site for them and future generations.

We as Americans have the duty to protect our History. It is not an option to put gambling and drinking next to hallowed ground. It will also bring alot of unwanted type problems into this wonderful piece of our history.

I personally would hate to see schools not bringing the children to see History because there is casino there.

There are plenty of places to build these establishments, there is no where else to have our History. I would ask that this Hearing find that the town, college, and most importantly the grounds where so many Soldiers are buried be protected from this casino ever being allowed to be built near this wonderful town we know as Gettysburg.

Name: **daniel l. watson**

State: **pa**

County: **centre**

ID: **1839**

RegID: **2023**

You can not allow this to happen. It is the most obsurd idea I've heard of. No one can desicrate Hallowed ground and if you allow this you will be taking part. You will be responsible for the destruction of our National Landmarks because they will not stop here.

You can not allow this to happen.

Name: **David s. Rushnock** State: **pa** County: **centre** ID: **1841** RegID: **2025**

Please don`t let them do this. I love to walk and look at the History here. I am not going to feel safe if these gambling people are there.

There are many alternative casino locations that may bring economic growth to south central Pennsylvania. However, there is only one Gettysburg. Our ancestors will roll over in their collective graves if the application is approved to construct a casino in close proximity to the battlefield. This generation owes a debt to those who have fallen, as well as our own children and grandchildren to protect the sanctity and integrity of Gettysburg`s hallowed soil. I respectfully urge you to vote NO.

I strongly oppose this application to build a casino half a mile from battlefield ground. Although I have lived in California for almost 20 years, I grew up in Pennsylvania. One of the things I love best about Pennsylvania is the history it contains within its borders. Independence Hall, Valley Forge, Gettysburg... all important places in the history of our country. Many died during the winter at Valley Forge. Many more died during three days at Gettysburg. The events which occurred at both places are significant to the history of the United States.

Gettysburg is hallowed ground and even the thought of building a casino there is a desecration. Once built, you will not be able to stop the inevitable sprawl and commercialization. Surely we owe more to those men who willingly gave the last full measure of devotion in 1863.

If the French built a casino half a mile from the American cemetery in Normandy, would you approve? If a casino was built half a mile from Ground Zero, would you approve? I urge you to deny the application for this casino. You did the right thing in 2005; please do the right thing again.

The Gettysburg National Park is a site sacred to memory of our 234-year-old union because it was a turning point in the war to preserve the union. It is hallowed ground, as Lincoln so eloquently said. We need no gambling hall nearby to draw tourists and promote business and profit at the expense of the historic nature of this site. Please reject this application. Thank you.

I strongly oppose the building of the casino at Gettysburg. I liken it to building a casino next the American Cemetery above Omaha Beach in Normandy French. The men there died freeing a nation and world from bondage. The men at Gettysburg died keeping a nation from being torn apart. They gave their all keeping this great nation as one and we should all be eternally thankful for their sacrifice. Because that battle was over 150 years ago does not make it or the men any less important. Respect, respect, respect.

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Would you put a casino in a church or a cemetery because Gettysburg battlefield is effectively both. Any American that denies this or is indifferent should be kicked out of the country. What a tawdry way to make a buck. Half a mile away is okay? May as well be next door. People backing that damn thing remind me of the creatures that traded with the Nazis.

Name: **chet green** State: **mi** County: **kent** ID: **1850** RegID: **2031**

The people backing that casino remind me of the creatures that traded with the Nazis. What a tawdry way to make a buck. They`d put slots in a church or a cemetery if they could get away with it. Well what do they think Gettysburg battlefield is ?

Name: **Paul W. Agnew**

State: **Ga**

County: **Hart**

ID: **1855**

RegID: **2037**

I am from a small town in North East Ga.,Hartwell,Ga. and I have ancestors who fought in the Civil War, or we down here call it the War of Northern Aggression, and my ancestors fought on that very ground for the cause that they belived in. Please I beg of you, Please don`t build anything on that ground that once was red with our ancestors blood.

I am a lifelong resident of Littlestown in Adams County. I support the Mason Dixon Resort and Casino for the employment and tax revenue that it will bring to this county. My home value has decreased while my property tax and utilities have increased to the point where I am now seeking part time employment to supplement my full time salary. I know that retirement at 65 is no longer a reality. Opponents of this venture have downplayed the property tax relief as a homeowner of a \$150,000 home will only receive \$52.50. My home is not worth \$150,000 and I will gladly take whatever tax break that I can get, no matter the amount.

I work in Gettysburg and have shopped at the downtown stores. During the past 2 weeks I have observed the tourists in that area and very few were carrying bags. The shops that I was in were empty or near empty. I have been in a restaurant when a group on a field trip came in and looked at the menu and then decided they would go to McDonalds. Local mom and pop stores, restaurants, hotels, bed and breakfast inns are supporting the casino because they know that the resort will refer visitors to them. According to the NPS there were 1,455,951 visitors in 2008 and 1,013,002 in 2009. That is a steep decline and we can not let those who look at Gettysburg from afar or travel here when their personal finances allow them to dictate what is best for Gettysburg and Adams County.

Many organizations have had their funding cut and contributions decreased because of the economy. One that I would like to mention is the Adams County SPCA. Their 2009 budget was \$564,000 and approximately \$27,000 of that came from the County and surrounding municipalities. That is a fraction of their budget and they desperately need the revenue that this casino can bring to them. As foreclosures in Adams County rose 18% the first 6 months in 2010 over last year, owners are forced to give up their pets as those who have lost their jobs and can no longer afford to keep them. I will pledge my first tax break from this casino to the SPCA and I appeal to the Board to grant this license to the Mason Dixon Resort. Thank you.

I was born and raised in Minnesota so why should I care about a casino at Gettysburg? Walk the field and you will find the memorial dedicated to the First Minnesota Volunteer Regiment. Read what they did on July 2, 1863 to save the Union position. By joining the fight to oppose the casino on that sacred ground I hope to honor the memory and sacrifice made by those men. Walk the cemetery. That field was purchased by men of many states both North and South. You are in the rare position of safeguarding an irreplaceable treasure. Don't let this ground be lost!

It is very difficult for me to even imagine a gaming facility close to Gettysburg, town or battlefield. I have visited the Historical sites four times over my lifetime, and would very much like to visit again. It is such an important time - a turning point in our Country`s history - and **MUST BE** kept pristine and restored to, as much is humanly possible, the time of the Civil War battle fought there.....it must be allowed to continue to show our children and children`s children the history which actually changed the course of our Nation. I can not believe that true citizens of the state of Pennsylvania, the city of Gettysburg, and other US citizens who treasure our History can do anything but **DISAPPROVE** such a placement of a gambling facility.

Dear Board members,

This comment has also appeared as a blog on the Conserveland blog of the Pennsylvania Land Trust Association, although it represents there my views and not one adopted by the association. Likewise my positions listed below are given to indicate my professional credentials, not to imply any endorsement of my views by the institutions involved, which have not taken a position on this project.

Respectfully,

Prof. Alf Siewers, Ph.D.

Co-editor, Stories of the Susquehanna Valley series and
faculty coordinator of the Nature and Human Communities Initiative, Bucknell University Environmental
Center

Former Urban Affairs Writer, Chicago Sun-Times

Historical and ecological conservation overlap in the work of many land conservancies and allied efforts. Sometimes an issue comes up that challenges the values behind that vital connection in a particularly sharp way. Such an issue in the news again is whether to build a casino at Gettysburg, antithetical as such a proposal is to such preserving, nurturing, highlighting and articulating of valuable and often neglected narratives of place throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed. At a time when the National Park Service is considering a proposal to designate the Susquehanna River corridor near Gettysburg as a connecting corridor to the Capt. John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail, Pennsylvania mulls making a casino a symbolic economic centerpiece to arguably its most precious historical area in the Chesapeake watershed—a place where a vision of historic conservation offered a model for conserving landscape-narrative connections between human communities and their environment in our watershed.

Lewis Mumford in his study of the history of cities noted that the charm and environmental sustainability of communities such as the New England village sprang from a spiritual center. People in those villages originally were required to live within walking distance of church, so their houses were clustered together while their farms were scattered beyond and a village commons in the middle functioned as a center for the landscape as a whole. The lack of such focus today (or rather its replacement with material profit as the focus of landscape) has been a spur to regional sprawl that has harmed so many communities, contributed to the draining away of our wealth as a people, and irreparably damaged our environment. Ask yourself in this context, what should be the focus of Gettysburg as a landscape central to the intersection of history and conservation in our commonwealth's central watershed—a for-profit corporate casino or the history (human and natural) of the Chesapeake watershed itself?

I remember as a newspaper reporter in Chicago being pulled into a surprise editorial board meeting at our paper with developers proposing a huge “family entertainment complex” in downtown Chicago that essentially was a mega-casino, with the mayor's blessing. One of the representatives of the project threatened that if Chicago didn't approve the project, Native Americans would come and open their own. In retrospect, considering the overly groomed out-of-town “suits,” I would have preferred an Indian casino to the proposed corporate operation. Indeed, later disclosures highlighted alleged organized crime associations of a key back-room “fixer” of the project. It fell through because of the principled opposition of Illinois Gov. Jim Edgar, the only one of Illinois' last three governors not to be convicted of extra-legal shennanigans, although typically maligned at the time for alleged goody-two-shoedness. I'm beginning to understand, after eight years of living in Pennsylvania, that miraculously things here can be even worse

than the land of Blagojevich in terms of the potential for government to become a vast ethical wasteland. All we may have to rally around on this (something powerful still as an idea) is the nomenclature of our state as “commonwealth,” evoking as it does the original noble experiment in Penn’s woods, something which cannot be taken from us along with all that was not nailed down in Harrisburg.

One of the main City Hall fixers of the Chicago proposal, after having researched my background, pulled me aside after a meeting once to ask me: “What religious commandment would a casino break?” Start with not stealing and go from there perhaps to psychological murder of the gambling addicts it would feed on, I thought but didn’t reply. Luckily the then-governor did. The line between libertarianism and a predatory libertinism in our corporate economy is always thin and on this as on many environmental issues virtually non-existent. Placing casinos in effect at the center of our regional and national economies (and their interaction with the world), in ultimately a dizzying array of electronic and paper financial and housing markets, led us into national economic decline entwined with a moral decline behind it. All these types of economic activities indeed feed on addictions and vulnerabilities of our neighbors and fellow citizens, in ways that would make our claim here to be a commonwealth into a joke. The Gettysburg casino proposal, even if a local project, will stand as an ultimate national symbol of those lessons unlearned if it is approved.

As I wrote in an article in Illinois Issues on metropolitan planning in Chicago, envisioning a regional landscape must involve more the imagination than efforts to quantify policy.

“In the end, the task of crafting long-lasting regional feng-shui ... remains necessarily cultural: Without a common spiritual or aesthetic ethic, there’s no core to a regional community. [Daniel] Burnham’s plan [for Chicago’s lakefront and forest preserves] succeeded in imagination in spite of substantial failure because its works lay in ruined fragments that shone like relics of a vanished giant race, sublime in the promise of their very incongruity with Nelson Algren’s ‘city on the make.’ In the battle between workaday materialism and utopian night dreams, the center rarely held in Chicago planning. By contrast, a sense of cosmic connectedness permeated the balanced landscape that travelers saw in traditional China. The street plans of historic Puritan villages in New England, beloved by Lewis Mumford, centered on churches. So, too, the city-as-artwork of sixth century Byzantium celebrated by W.B. Yeats, the layout of parishes in rural England, even the front-porched immigrant neighborhoods of Chicago. Daily life connected with universal cycles in a sense of community that linked heaven and earth. That doesn’t often happen in the commonwealth of cyberspace. Nelson Algren wrote of one parish in an old Chicago neighborhood: ‘Summer on Seventy-First Street, when I was a Southside sprout, was blue as peace. The cross above St. Columbanus caught the light of a holier daybreak than ours while the wan gas-flares still wavered. Then the bells of early mass rang out, for our own morning had lightened the alleys at last. And long after the twilight’s last lamplighter had passed, ladder across his handlebars and gas-torch against his shoulder, somebody else’s twilight burned on behind that cross. The light that lingered, the light that held, belonged to somebody else’s night. Somebody else’s somebody else, who ran daybreak and evening too.’ The real task... will be to nurture the growth of such an aesthetic of community on a regional scale, an aesthetic akin to what the late environmentalist Aldo Leopold called a conservation ethic, but in a place with no central dome like Constantinople’s Hagia Sophia casting a shadow to hallow its ground, no certain consensus on environmentalism, and deep divisions among its people. Polish bars on the Northwest Side in the 1950s convinced Nelson Algren’s lover Simone de Beauvoir of Chicago’s world-class status as much as Burnham’s lakefront. But Algren’s art was the biggest factor of all.”

Casting the virtual reality of a casino in that central role of imagination in this symbolic place will cast a pale over efforts to shape the real world of the Chesapeake watershed’s complex natural and cultural ecology itself as a new symbolic focus for this region as a community. The video below asks the question, “What will be your legacy?” I dare any American with any sense of patriotism or conservationism (or

hopefully both) to watch this without a tear. May those tears fall like rain on this proposal and expose any official supporters of it as traitors to the landscape of our commonwealth and its future unto the seventh generation.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nubs99Vz_yg

Also check out what you can do here:

<http://nocasinogettysburg.org/>

Three times in my adult life I has visited the Gettysburg Battlefiield. Twice I have hiked the entire battlefield when I was a scoutmaster. Each three day visit with my scouts was an unforgettable history lesson where the sacrifice of many became real. The images from pictures and passages become real as one is walking in the footsteps. On both occasions our troop had our picture taken in front of the monument to the First Long Island Volunteers. This is a connection for the boys who today can only see a plague marking the spot where this group trined in Garden City NY. Regular citizens from every state died on that battlefield, This is a sacred place. There is no `brand ` to Gettysburg other than a sacred place of National interest that should be free from tainted reality gambling is.

As a citizen of the United States who is very proud of our history and very grateful as well as humbled by the brave men and women who have fought for our country, I STRONGLY oppose the idea of a casino so close to the hallowed grounds of Gettysburg. This sacred and important monument is beautifully maintained so that one can pick a site and picture the bravery of the men who fought so valiantly to preserve our country. Even though there is much commercialism surrounding the battle field-it all lends itself to the mood of the Civil War and Abraham Lincoln, in a small town atmosphere. My fear is that not only would a casino desecrate the land where so much blood was shed for us, but would also draw people to Gettysburg who would not be coming for the historical significance. I'm quite sure that I would no longer feel comfortable walking the streets by myself or walking up to the cemetery at dusk. In my opinion this could have a very negative effect on those visiting Gettysburg for the history. It's just wrong that a corporation would use this sacred place as a means to make money. Sometimes we have to put integrity and honor before the mighty dollar. I'm not against casinos as such just NOT HERE. PLEASE find a different location. Thank you! Karen Dafflito

A casino right next door to the Gettysburg National Military Park is NOT a suitable place for a house of gambling. Suitability means everything here---and Gettysburg in not a suitable place for this casino. Please do the right thing and award the casino elsewhere.

Name: **Chris Sedlak** State: **PA** County: **Allegheny** ID: **1864** RegID: **2048**

Say NO to a Casino at the national SHRINE we know as Gettysburg. It is the hallowed ground of our ancestors BLOOD and NO PLACE FOR A CASINO.

Once you allow this imposition, you are trampling on your heritage, never to recover it.

Please do not desecrate hallowed ground by building a casino within the confines of the Gettysburg Battlefield. We live in a highly mobile society and I don`t think it would bother anyone at all who wants to gamble to drive 20 or 30 miles down the road.

Please do not desecrate our hallowed ground by building a casino within the confines of the Gettysburg Battlefield. We live in a highly mobile society and I don't think it would bother anyone who wanted to gamble to drive 20 or 30 miles down the road to do it.

Please do not desecrate our hallowed ground by building a casino within the confines of the Gettysburg Battlefield. We live in a highly mobile society and I don't think it would bother any one to drive 20 or 30 miles down the road to gamble.

Please do not desecrate our hallowed ground by building a casino within the confines of the Gettysburg Battlefield. We live in a highly mobile society and I don't think it would bother anyone who wanted to gamble to drive 20 or 30 miles down the road.

I am currently what is often termed an ex-pat. I am living outside the U.S. When I knew I was moving I had the opportunity to spend one long weekend any where I wanted in the U.S. before I left. I chose to spend it in Gettysburg.

I had been to so many beautiful places in this great country but there was no place that captured the spirit and history of America like Gettysburg and I wanted to feel and breath that spirti one more time before I left. If you want to feel what America is about, if you want breath the meaning of freedom, and of a legacy of a country that is willing to fight, and, if necssary die, to preserve that freedom , there is no other place to feel that spirit than Gettysburg.

Part of that freedom is allowing local people decide on development issues even in areas as vitally important as the Gettysburg National Park. However, with freedom comes trmendous repsonsibility.

Please preserve your legacy by denying this casino application. By doing so you will not just preseve your community, you will also preserve a large part of America`s legacy.

September 6, 2010

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to the PGCB regarding the proposed Mason-Dixon Casino on Emmitsburg Pike in Gettysburg.

I have been visiting the town on a regular basis since 2006, when I joined the Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association.

Prior to that, I had been there a few times as a child to visit my brother's god -parents on their farm out on Taneytown Road. I distinctly remember the plaque on their brick home that indicated the house was standing at the time of the Battle. And a detached log kitchen with giant fireplace and a room upstairs. There was a roof ,however, connecting the house's kitchen to the detached kitchen.

Unfortunately, on my excursions around town I haven't been able to locate the site of that house. As best I can locate it, a gravel/wood business has taken it's place.

I fell absolutely in love with "Devil's Den" on the trips to the park.

I took my son there back in the 1980's before we moved to the Midwest for several years.

My late brother and I used to play "Stonewall Jackson" and "Jesse James" instead of the usual "Cowboys and Indians". (He later changed Heroes to J.E.B. Stuart and John Mosby.)

So as you can see, I have a emotional bond to the town.

As well, I understand the goodness and need of preservation. When we are up there, we make a point to travel on a different street/road so that we have covered quite a bit of the town. At times I feel like I know the 'Burg better than the streets here in Dover. I love to look at old buildings, they have a story to tell, I feel.

I can see both see both sides of this issue.

1.) Repurposing an existing building is a wonderful idea. No matter how they try, modern architects cannot reproduce the "character" that comes with the older "experienced" buildings.

2.) Having visited with several members of Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association, I have heard of the works of Dave LeVan ,a lifelong Gettysburg resident. As a businessman and politician, of course he will have his motives questioned. Some will say that GBPA is doing a payback for the grants and donations made to them by the LeVan`s over the years.

But he also helped fund multiple other projects about the county.

I personally don`t know the man, but if he`s willing to stand out in the early spring rain and mud to help locate the site Camp Letterman, he can`t be all that bad.

3.) I understand that this go around, a majority of the major civic and business committees of the town are in favor of the casino, the Chamber of Commerce, Board of Supervisors, and County Commissioners. Now the local American Legion is with them too, they had originally chosen to remain neutral, bucking the National`s stand.

4.)The locals would know the town`s true needs much better than people not living in the county or town. Among them, GBPA President Brendan Synnamon. Though recently elected, he and his father have had a CW related business in the town for many years. I seriously doubt that he/any local merchant would risk losing their livelihoods.

True, some businesses may not get in on the initial flourish, but as I see it, a trickle down effect over time. Am trying to look beyond the Casino specific jobs: dealers, housekeepers, bartenders, food service workers to waitresses, hospital workers, car repair shops and all. I`m trying to look at it as if someone got a few extra hours on the pay check, and was able to take their “honey” to the movies, or the kids to Mickey D`s.

How do the people in KY, Canada, CA, or Australia know what Adams County`s needs are? Who are non-residents to tell Gettysburg folks what to do or think? Whereas Adams County residents should not tell them how to live either.

Wait a minute, wasn`t this what the Civil War was about to begin with?

5.) My affection for the Daniel Lady Farm, a GBPA project is very well known. Back in 2006, I was asked to contact GB groups to see how the Central Delaware Civil War Round Table could assist their preservation efforts. One particular group told me... `send us your dues and we will call you when we need you.` The GBPA, just said `when would you like to start?`

I have seen first hand how the group works, therefore I doubt seriously that they would jeopardize their reputation as a positive force in the field of preservation and education by supporting any cause that would harm or disgrace the history of the Battle and those who fought there.

6.) About 18 months ago I noted a marked change in Gettysburg`s activity level.(Not long after the Visitors Center moved to it`s new location.) And most importantly, a change in it`s overall atmosphere as well.

She (the town) feels like she`s strangling to me.

In mid June 2010, we had no issue getting a motel room on a Friday night in the town, and I am told July was no different by members in town for the weekend. However I am also being told that is a fluctuating status, That there are times you will still have difficulty in finding lodging.

7.) I have been hearing for a while that general consensus is, with the large number of tax exempt and non profits in town that a minority of the true residents feel they shoulder the largest part of the tax burden.

8.) As far as keeping the sacred ground sacred, helping the descendants of those that fought there, died there, to provide for their families and future generations is a significant way to honor the soldiers as well.

I have 5 confirmed Union soldiers in my family tree,(with 4 more in research confirmation status) just on my mother`s side. One served at GB with the 6th Pa. Cavalry - Rush`s Lancers. Keeping correct American history intact is important, but the children need food and shelter first and foremost.

In today`s society, as one who has wondered where her child`s next bottle was coming from(and my own son is at that point here in the declining Delaware economy)I know from personal experience, emotion doesn`t pay the rent, put food on the table, pay for healthcare or keep the family car in gas to get to the job that does provide all of those things.

But there has to be a job to go to in the first place!!

I absolutely and completely oppose allowing a casino anywhere near the Gettysburg battlefield. As a Pennsylvania resident who loves our history and has visited Gettysburg between 40 and 50 times in the last ten years, having a casino so close to the battlefield would greatly diminish the experience. The increased traffic, especially on the Emmitsburg Road, would destroy the opportunity to enjoy the peaceful vistas. As casino goers learn the area, they will bypass the Emmitsburg Road for park roads to avoid the traffic. The social ills, litter, and traffic damage to the parks and monuments will detract from what should be a place for reflection and the pondering of the heritage of our great nation. The drain on an already limited national park budget will take away from the park staff's ability to maintain sacred ground. There must never be a casino anywhere near such a national treasure as Gettysburg.

The proposed casino in Cumberland Township will be a good shot in the arm for our local economy. With unemployment at around 9.5% we need the jobs that this enterprise will bring to the area. When I look to compare this casino with others for local impact we need to compare apples to apples. I went to Charles Town. This casino as you know is located next to Harpers Ferry. I saw no negative impact on this historic area. I did see business that were doing well all around the casino area. I saw no drug activity and no prostitution that the nay sayers say will come with a casino. While I do not gamble myself I feel that this will be good for economic development in Adams County. I also feel that Dave Levan will do this project with respect towards the area and in a manner that will fit in with the hisorical and beautiful landscape of Adams County.

Respectfully, Alan W Henry

Gettysburg Battlefield is a national treasure reminding all of us of the struggle to keep this nation whole and free. To denigrate this hallowed ground with a casino would be a disgrace to the memory of the gallant men, on both sides who fought here.

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My name is Charles Meeker, Sr. I reside in Wayne Township, Lawrence County, Pennsylvania. I am a veteran of the VietNam Conflict. If you permit this casino you will be defacing this hallowed ground. I had family fight at the Angle, with the 72nd Pennsylvania Volunteers, repulsing Pickett's Charge. If you allow this project you will not only ruin the historical aspects of Adams County, but also detract from the beauty of this land. This casino would be tantamount of replacing the old tower, that was an old eye sore.

Put yourself in the shoes of the descendants of these honored and brave men who gave the ultimate sacrifice here and all over this great nation.

Think about them and how you would feel if they wanted to put a casino on the ground where your family is at eternal rest.

Name: **Edward Browne** State: **CT** County: **Windham** ID: **1880** RegID: **2063**

My ancestor fought at Gettysburg. A Casino that close to Gettysburg dishonors the men and sullies the `Gettysburg` name. I'm against having a casino anywhere near Gettysburg.

I strongly urge the Board to deny this application. There must be another location in the county that is significantly further away from the battlefield. This location is far too close. Please do not insult the sacrifices made by so many thousands.

Casinos have no place near Gettysburg. This battlefield is a place of hallowed ground. It remains as a national treasure.

I have been visiting Gettysburg and the National Park for many years. To say that this place is hallowed ground is an understatement.

This year I took my 2 grandkids to the battlefield and explained to them what happened here in 1863. My oldest, 8, wrote a paper on his experience for his class. The teacher said it was one of the best papers she had seen a child of his age write.

I'd like to think that the impression the battlefield had on him led to his high grade and praise.

Placing a Casino in this area is just wrong -- on many levels.

I am aware that people will say it is not near the battlefield. But they lie. The whole area surrounding Gettysburg is part of the battlefield, in one way or another.

Both Union and Confederate troops marched, ran, slept -- and bled -- all over that area. The covered bridge over Marsh Creek is as much part of the battlefield as Little Round Top.

The area surrounding Gettysburg is something very special. Here brother fought against brother. The very roots of what held the United States together was up for grabs at this battle.

When one walks this area, many realize that they are on ground that is entirely different from other places. It grabs hold of a person and doesn't let go. I defy anyone who comes here not to feel something `special` after their visit.

Gettysburg & the surrounding area belongs to **THE PEOPLE**. Not a casino, not a fast food chain. It belongs to the people who fought & died here. It belongs to the people who come to remember and learn here.

Once a casino is established in an area, try getting it out. I have seen this happen in other places with promises of jobs, increased payrolls and tax base. It doesn't last. (Las Vegas, anyone?) The numbers may spound good, but when theory becomes fact, it fails to hold up. By then, it is too late to reverse things.

One has to ask: why build a casino here in Gettysburg? Why not elsewhere?

The answer is simple: The developers are cashing in on the name value and tourist draw of Gettysburg. If that were not true, why don't they go to another location?

No, they want to ride on the coattails of the battlefield, and the memories of those who fought & died there, as well as those of Lee, Meade and Lincoln. To say it is distasteful is an understatement.

The proposed casino in this area **DOES NOT** belong here. I urge you to please reject this proposal.

The battlefield, the town of Gettysburg and those cherished memories they hold deserve better.

Thank you,
Michael F. Blake

Gambling? Casinos? Slot Machines? You think THIS is the answer to economic depression? You think THIS will solve your unemployment problems? Look OUTSIDE the casinos. Look at the neighborhoods JUST out of sight of the casinos. Go to Atlantic City and see the abject squalor around the corner from the billions of dollars being raked in by the casino owners. Talk to the citizens who were given the same lie about what a boon to the economy the gambling industry would be. Try and find one town in this COUNTRY that has the untold riches that it was promised before it let in the gambling industry. Jobs? \$8 an hour, \$10 an hour. CHUMP CHANGE jobs, little better than minimum wage. Not enough to buy a house and raise a family. And by the time that you wake up and discover that the gambling industry was all just a big lie, it will be too late. The Hallowed Ground of America will be destroyed and lost forever. For what? For what?

John M. Guarneri, Sr.

I am a co-owner of the Adams County Winery. Our farm winery, one of the oldest in the state, is not far from Gettysburg. We also have a retail store in Gettysburg. I am submitting my comments from both the business and personal perspective. I anticipate our business might increase if the casino is in Gettysburg. However, I am convinced that the detrimental impact on other local businesses and residents far outweigh any economic gain for a few. Personally, I am not opposed to gambling: I have gambled in both Atlantic City and Las Vegas. However, a casino in this area is such a divisive issue, and the thought of it near this sacred ground is very, very sad. Please do not grant a license for this fragile community that would be forever changed by a casino. Thank you for listening to us.

I would like to think that all of you have read a history book or studied it some but apparently not. It is a shame that all you can see is dollar signs. I have lived by Indian Gambling Resorts in California. Not very quiet, or respectful places. You can't tell me that you can't move somewhere else. There is a lot of empty country around. You don't have to be close to town. The people and the traffic will come. Never fear. But the pages of history can be destroyed and blown away. We need to remember a little more of our countries history, to many people forget .So many people killed at Gettysburg that if all we can do is preserve the spot then that we should be doing. This is where is comes from for a person thinking it is fine to have a mosque in New York at the site of 9/11. DISRESPECT. You both wish to disrespect what came before. PLEASE stop your plans for once and for all. Sincerely, Joanna Roe

Name: **Jessie V. Smith** State: **PA** County: **Adams** ID: **1890** RegID: **2075**

My name is Jessie V. Smith, I was born and raised in Gettysburg and I support the Mason Dixon Resorts.

I oppose the idea of having a casino being built at the most honored and well preserved battlefield in America-Gettysburg. Gettysburg is a place where Americans can understand the sacrifice of those before us so that our nation might live. I understand the significance of that battle and what it means to us as a nation that loves liberty and freedom. Please ensure that no Casino is built at Gettysburg. Gettysburg is hallowed ground forever.

I adamantly oppose allowing a casino to move anywhere in or around Gettysburg as it will totally change the whole feel of the area. It will degrade the battlefield and the soldiers who shed their blood here. The battlefield is hallowed ground and allowing a casino here will move this Historical Monument which Gettysburg is nationally known for, into the shadows. Gettysburg will become known for the casino. We should honor our men, not forget them and what they fought for.

As a teacher in the Gettysburg Area School District, I have watched attrition of my peers as never before in any district. Our numbers are dropping quickly due to baby boomers retiring and the district is NOT rehiring. In the classroom this procedure results in class size booming. I have 30 students in my Accelerated English 12 class and 27 in the other. This is unheard of for students who wish to be prepared for college.

As a taxpayer in Adams County, my taxes are higher than any of the neighboring counties. I have lived here as a homeowner since 2001 with a raise in the rate every year.

These two situations cause me to desire the casino because I know the income from it (be it even the smallest amount) will support my county, my township, and my lifestyle as a teacher and a taxpayer.

Help put a stop to the fleecing of Adam county residents. Put this casino at work. Barbara E. Kingsley

Please deny this request, for obvious reasons. Gaming does not belong adjacent to a battlefield, especially one as significant as Gettysburg. It is demeaning to the memory of the combatants. Why not put a strip mall at the Wheatfield or add a gym set to Devil`s Den? Any justification is contrived - do the right thing.

My name is Fran Davidson I reside in Union Township, Lawrence County, Pennsylvania and I am opposed to the casino to be placed at Gettysburg for the following reasons. If people become too greedy and don't care about our heritage and someones loved ones are buried there. This is one of the most visited attraction in the state of Pennsylvania that it teaches our young people our heritage and that George Washington stayed in the little town of Hunterstown just northeast of Gettysburg. You have stopped caring about our ancestors and that your greed will be the downfall of Gettysburg, just like Vicksburg.

I deeply oppose building a gambling facility near a sacred battlefield of national, even international, historic importance. It would forever cheapen the experience of visitors to this hallowed ground and absolutely has no place anywhere near this site. I really can not find words adequate to express my disdain for a `casino` near this site.

I support the casino application for Gettysburg PA the further diversity the local economy and provide jobs that will give us more opportunity than working in TEE shop or a musuem.

I support the casino application for Gettysburg PA the further diversity the local economy and provide jobs that will give us more opportunity than working in TEE shop or a musuem.

Name: **Loretta Dolan** State: **NJ** County: **Middlesex** ID: **1899** RegID: **2087**

Please refrain from building any gaming facility in an area with such deep American history. We must preserve what is sacred and not commercialize these areas.

Dear Gaming Control Board,

Thank you for taking into consideration the feelings of the public in regards to placement of gambling establishments. I could not take part in the public hearings that took place in Gettysburg but read about them in the paper. It seems to me to be overwhelmingly clear that Gettysburg is not a good site for a gambling establishment. Gettysburg is an area where not only the local people are against this slots facility but people all over the United States and even in other countries are in opposition to this choice for a gambling site. The many reasons have been laid out for you by many eloquent people - please listen to them. Please do not allow gambling to come to this Gettysburg site or any Gettysburg or Adams County, PA site.

Again thank you for this opportunity to share my thoughts.

After seeing the Gettysburg Battlefield again, as an adult, I realize how important it is to preserve our nation`s history and keep this land intact. Commercializing such hallowed grounds is insulting and repugnant. Please do not desecrate this place for the sake of profit. More tourism for gambling will only lose, not preserve what we as Americans hold dear to our hearts.

Though I live in Virginia, my wife and I travel monthly to Gettysburg, and stay in local hotels while we are there. We love the area and have contemplated living there in years to come. I am the descendant of a soldier killed on July 2nd 1863 at the Wheatfield and I oppose the casino. This is not on moral grounds alone, but on the principal that this will add nothing to the area - a resort casino will be a destination where people come to gamble. PERIOD. Those coming there will not be visiting the local area, nor contributing to the income of the town. Local business will suffer and whither as this draws income from the town. Similar proposals in areas where I have lived have severely impacted the local character of the surrounding communities, while adding nothing. If we invited a parasite into our lives, we would soon try to rid ourselves of it - and it won't be possible to do so if we allow Mason-Dixon Resorts to move forward.

Thank you for allowing an out-of -state comment on this issue. Patrick Mooney, South Riding Virginia

Name: **stephen p. parr II** State: **OH** County: **clark** ID: **1905** RegID: **2090**

To whom it may concern. We all as Americans have a duty to preserve the sanctity of Gettysburg, it is hallowed ground. Do not use the memory of the thousands of fallen men at Gettysburg to pimp your Casino. I'm sure that there are more appropriate locations where you can build your Casino.

There are thousands of casinos throughout America, but there is only one Gettysburg.

Building a casino in Gettysburg will change the town forever, not by helping increase the number of jobs available, but by tempting the weak to throw away their money with little to no hope of any return. A casino will only weaken an already weak economy.

I enjoy an occasional visit to a casino, and was pleased when Pennsylvania decided to legalize slots casinos, later adding table games to the `menu`. However, there`s a place for everything, and Gettysgurg is definitely NOT the place for a casino or any other highly visible form of legalized gambling.

Gettysgurg is rightfully known for the battle that changed the tide of the Civil War, and America`s destiny going forward. This hallowed ground and its accompanying history must remain the sole major focus of the Gettysburg experience. To allow casino gambling would cause a major alteration to the character and environmant of the local area. Gettysgurg would change from a family-oriented destination focused on American history and the vital place Gettysburg has in having shaped the country in which we live , to an adult oriented pleasure ground, with a different class of patron.

The group seeking a casino license for Gettysburg is using the popularity of Gettysburg as a vehicle to achieve a strictly business focused profit motive. Their disregard for the true Gettysburg is unacceptable.

I`ve made many visits to Gettysburg, because I enjoy history and the atmosphere that prevails in Gettysgurg. I would be appalled to see a casino substantially ruin the atmosphere of this great town and its very significant place in history. It`s the responsibility of the PA Gaming Control Board to assure that the wants and needs of the populace are met.

Take to heart the failed commercial enterprise that was the observation tower on the Gettysburg battlefield. Do the right thing and award a license to a group that will build a casino in a location where it will not conflict with the local culture or change the character of an existing irreplaceable historical site. Reject the application for a casino in Gettysburg.

Name: **Scott Williams** State: **VA** County: **_** ID: **1910** RegID: **2098**

As a frequent visitor to the Gettysburg area, I am strongly opposed the the granting of a casino license in this area. Gettysburg is a national treasure. The addition of a casino here would belittle the sacrifices made and would discourage torists such as myself from visiting the area.

Name: **Jack Barnhart** State: **PA** County: **York** ID: **1911** RegID: **2101**

Simply ask yourself, would Gettysburg be considered for a gambling license if the battle were NOT have happened there? I do not think so. The location alone is not that, ideal. The battle is the reason, it is considered.

Name: **Gwen D. Oram** State: **PA** County: **Centre** ID: **1912** RegID: **2102**

I strongly urge you to protect a national historic place of honor from the commercialism of a casino within a half mile of the Gettysburg Battle Field.

Gwen D. Oram

Name: **Gwen D. Oram** State: **PA** County: **Centre** ID: **1913** RegID: **2102**

I strongly urge you not to allow the commercialism of such an historic place as the Gettysburg Battle Field . Vote NO for a casino!

The town of Gettysburg and its surrounding areas should be left unsullied by gaming facilities and developers who do not have our country`s history at heart. How can one stand amid the trees, where the Confederate boys and men stood, and look across the field to the copse, where the Union soldiers awaited their charge, and even consider disturbing the peace of these sacred hills and fields.

Dear Sirs or Madames,

I have owned a home in Adams County for over 40 yrs. and am a history buff, especially the Civil War. I am retired and would like to have part time work, my wife works, we have and 18 yr. old son who graduated from college and is looking for work.

I believe in protecting the Gettysburg Battlefield as a National Treasure. However, the Mason-Dixon Resort is not on the Battlefield, it is previously developed property, and is zoned for the proposed use.

I know that the the anti casino group has misrepresented the location of the proposed resort because I have been approached by them. They have used misrepresentation to get tourists to sign petitions, and truthfully made themselves pretty bothersome to vistors to our area.

Adams County desperately needs jobs for particularly young people, but retired people who would like something part time.

My wife and go a couple times a year to Charlestown which is run by Penn National Gaming. The food is great, never in over 40 yrs. have we seen drug, alcohol, robberies, or rape. The place wasn't always run by Penn National, but we have always felt safe there and had a good time.

I fear that if this resort doesn't come to Adams County we will be left will another abandend property, off the tax roles, and once again no opportunities for citizens of Adams County.

The recent reassessment has left many people wondering how in the world they will pay their taxes. The Gettysburg National Park pays no taxes and takes up a big chunk of land in this County, the we have the Gettysburg College, nonprofits adding to nontaxable land.

I hope that you will approve the Mason-Dixon Resorts in Adams County because the project will give our County an opportunity for improvement.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincererly,
Nelson F. Thomas, Jr.

Name: **Deborah K. Cross**

State: **FL**

County: **Polk**

ID: **1917**

RegID: **2106**

Please do not approve a gaming license for Mason-Dixon Resorts LP in the town or surrounding area of Gettysburg, PA. This is a national battlefield which belongs to the whole United States, and which must be protected as such. This is arguably the place where our nation`s history as a nation was determined and should not cheapened by a casino. Thank you.

Name: **Jill H. Camp** State: **PA** County: **Adams** ID: **1919** RegID: **2108**

As a resident of Gettysburg, I am outraged that slots would be considered here and most vehemently oppose any such plan that would bring either slots or any form of gambling here.

Name: **Jill H. Camp** State: **PA** County: **Adams** ID: **1920** RegID: **2108**

As I resident of Gettysburg, I oppose any plan that would bring slots or any form of gambling here.

Name: **Jill H. Camp** State: **PA** County: **Adams** ID: **1921** RegID: **2108**

As a resident of Gettysburg, I strongly oppose any plan that would bring slots or any form of gambling here.

Name: **Jill H. Camp** State: **PA** County: **Adams** ID: **1922** RegID: **2108**

As a resident of Gettysburg, I strongly oppose any plan that would permit slots or any form of gambling here.

I truly feel this type of gambling this near Gettysburg will be a detriment to our area. I do not believe the promised jobs will be enough or pay enough to make a difference here. I also believe gambling is only about the people losing money and not about lowering taxes. Taxes were supposed to be lowered if gambling were legalized in the state of PA. So now it is legalized and our property taxes are going way up. These promises are government propaganda.

Beyond the battle to free the slaves. The results of the Civil War unified the states into one nation. The battle at Gettysburg played a significant role in the success of the union. I enjoy history, but more important than that I respect and am humbled by the sacrifice of the soldiers that fought for all of our freedom. Preserve Gettysburg, No Casino!! Honor the men who fought and died for us on those grounds by preserving our history. Thank you!

Let the coins spill elsewhere, not on the hallowed ground where spilled the precious blood of Americans forging a renewed commitment to liberty; a `new birth of freedom.` To gamble and game for gain is not `altogether fitting and proper` for a place where we come to remember; to `be dedicated to the unfinished work fo...r which they who fought` gave their lives, their `last full measure of devotion.` Let us be devoted to their memory and the lessons taught by it. Let us be as they were. `Dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal,` and not placated by the pitiful adage of inequality, `The house always wins.` Not here. Not here should we revel in the lights and sounds, the fleeting exuberance of a few dollars gained by chance. Here we should reflect. Remember `the brave men who struggled here.` Reverence, not revelry. This graveyard of an old inequality, birthplace of a new freedom, is no place to cast lots for coin. It is a place where the bodies of the `honored dead` lay, not a place to lay bets. There is no fitting and proper address in Gettysburg for a casino!

Please do not allow a casino to be built on or near the sacred ground in Gettysburg. This is a place of greatest historical significance, one we have visited several times from California, bringing family and friends with us to see this historic place. There are few places in our great country that have as much meaning for all those who love freedom and love our country.

My Mother once told me, `You don`t ever know what you have until you lose it.` I think that the wisdom that she imparted to me that day applies perfectly to the situation regarding the proposal for a gambling casino in Adams County only one half mile from the Gettysburg National Military Park. Once the `experiment` is done, the loss will have occurred and going back to the beginning will be nigh unto impossible. We live in the midst of a truly unique historical area that is regarded by most as hallowed ground. There will always be financial interests trying to attach their ventures to locales with a `Name` in hopes that, if nothing more, people will know where that place is located and that that connection might benefit their efforts. But, a venture of this magnitude that has the capability of totally altering the nature of the area must be judged by a different criteria. The establishment of `Battlefield Harley Davidson` has vastly changed the atmosphere of downtown Gettysburg on weekend afternoons as dozens of Harley motorcycles thunder through downtown Gettysburg without the benefit of mufflers to `entertain` the folks attempting to enjoy the formerly peaceful streets. I, personally have ridden a motorcycle for over 45 years, but never thought that a loud muffler was a necessary part of enjoying the ride. I mention this only because it displays some of the attitude of one of the major investors in this latest attempt to build a casino in Gettysburg --- he is the owner of `Battlefield Harley Davidson`. Did his business provide some jobs? Yes! Was it worth the price to the tranquility of Gettysburg? No! I fear that this same attitude will be part and parcel of the casino proposal. I`m sure that the `almighty dollar` is the only concern to these petitioners. Many other aspects of this ill-conceived plan have been discussed in depth. I submit this comment as something that I have discussed with neighbors, but had never submitted to a forum like this. I think it demonstrates an important angle from which the Gaming Control Board`s decision can be decided.

I believe that a casino in Gettysburg would forever change the look and feel of this small town, as casino gaming has done in other towns. Gettysburg should remain a symbol of national pride, a reminder of the good that was accomplished here through the men who gave their lives so that others could live freely. Why tarnish this national site when there are many other locations that do not have the historic value that Gettysburg does? Once done, it will be too late to decide it was a mistake. The money this might bring is not worth the sacrifice, even in a bad economy.

Name: **Terence Albert. Boniface** State: **UK** County: **Cambridgshire** ID: **1930**
RegID: **2117**

I most stongly oppose the building of a gambling casino at Gettysburg

Name: **Terence Albert. Boniface** State: **UK** County: **Cambridgshire** ID: **1931**
RegID: 2117

Imost strongly appose the building of a gambling casino at Gettysburg

Name: **Terence Albert. Boniface** State: **UK** County: **Cambridgshire** ID: **1932**
RegID: 2117

I most strongly oppose the building of a gambling casino at Gettysburg

Name: **Terence Albert. Boniface** State: **UK** County: **Cambridgshire** ID: **1933**
RegID: 2117

I most strongly oppose the building of a gambling casino at Gettysburg

Please preserve the historical significance of the town of Gettysburg by denying this gambling license application. Gettysburg is recognized throughout the world as being a pivotal turning point during the United States` Civil War. Allowing a casino to be built would desecrate this hallowed ground by promoting a immorality to the point that visitors will no longer see Gettysburg as a protected and sacred battlefield, but a place where the thrill and pursuit of gambling can be obtained. Gettysburg will be branded with a new reputation as a turning point in American History; not for it`s contribution to freedom, but it`s contribution to the moral decay and lack of historical protection in America and local politics. Please don`t sell out to this travesty.

I am a `native` of Adams County and have lived in Gettysburg most of my life and even elected to earn a B.A. degree in History from Shippensburg University due to my natural interest, since childhood, in the Gettysburg battlefield.

I was registered to speak at the recent meeting, but had to leave to go to work.

PGCB please grant Mason Dixon the license. Despite what you`ve heard, Gettysburg no longer relies on `heritage` tourists. We have more visitors coming now for our other events and attractions than come to see the battlefield. The GNMP`s own numbers show the number of `heritage tourists` have been rapidly declining. Gettysburg CVB has been working hard to promote Gettysburg for other travelers.

This weekend will be the Wine and Music Festival which will attract at least 7500 visitors or more. The following weekend is our annual Fall Outdoor Antique Show. There are two each year; one in spring and one in fall. The hotels will be completely booked for this event. Three weeks ago was the Gettysburg Bluegrass Festival. There are two of these each year too!

We have many, many events not related to the Battle such as:

Gettysburg Bike Week

Apple Blossom Festival

Blue and Gray Cup Soccer Tourney - (over 300 teams)

Eisenhower Weekend

First Friday Gettysburg Style (monthly)

Gettysburg Festival

Various Alumni and Parents weekends plus Graduation events at both Gettysburg College and St. Mary`s Univ.

History meets the Arts

Annual Ghost Hunters Expo

Mid Atlantic Womens Motorcycle Rally

Greyhounds in Gettysburg Weekend

National Apple Harvest Festival

Gettysburg New Years Celebration

Holiday House Tour Weekend

and sooo many more!

Gettysburg was ranked 29th in the "Top 50 Motorcoach Destinations" in the U.S.A., a ranking conducted by the National Motorcoach Network in February 2008.

We want to build on our events, destinations and attractions!

You can help us, and the taxpayers of Pa. by awarding us this license. Thank you!

Name: **Adam Golden** State: **PA** County: **Adams** ID: **1937** RegID: **2122**

I was registered to speak at the meeting for Mason Dixon Resort and Casino, but had to leave Gettysburg the weekend prior to go to school at WVU. Please give Mason Dixon the license.

Thanks,

Adam Golden

Name: **patrick m pazen** State: **co** County: **douglas** ID: **1939** RegID: **2124**

casinos near Gettysburgh give me a break is this capatalism at its finest/ what an insult to any interlligent human being no other comments needed

I am originally from Niagara Falls, NY. A casino went in that city with the claim it would boost the economy just as people claim it will do here in Gettysburg. The result was far from idealistic - it did bring some jobs but not what it boosted and the negatives far outweigh the few positives. More crime came in the area and the area around the casino looks rougher than it used to look but that is just the tip of it. Look at this article (attached in a link) this is not the type of activity I want around our community. Although the report is from a Toronto, Canada news paper it is about activity connected with the Niagara Fall, NY casino (Toronto is 45 minutes from NF, NY). A casino will bring these types in along with a lot more crime and need for more fireman, police, EMT services - the small area of Gettysburg already foots the bill for these things for the huge need due to tourist - the need will increase more than the funds a casino will be brought in! In Niagara Falls it also brought in LA & NYC gangs (such as La Familia). We do NOT want what a casino will bring to our area!!! This is not even touching on the increase in social problems that will come with a casino – suicides' and more need for family counseling services for dysfunctions associated with gambling. Is this really what we want in our community??? Not I!

<http://www.torontosun.com/news/torontoandgta/2010/05/25/14086526.html>

I have been a resident of Adams County for the last 16 years. Previously, I have visited the area frequently due to its rural charms and dedication to preservation of land for future generations to admire and visit as commemorative ground sanctified by the fallen soldiers and townspeople of the Battle of Gettysburg. It is abhorrent to me to consider the desantification of this area for the purpose of gambling purposes. First, I would like address the argument as to why Gettysburg does not need a casino to support it financially. Gettysburg and the surrounding area is not lacking in job opportunities for industrious and entrepreneurial persons. Therefore, I see no financial benefit to bringing a casino to an area that is in most cases already financially stable. Secondly, I would like to support the `No Casino` group in its efforts because these people are correct in assuming that a casino would not be an asset to our community since we are against any gambling that would continue to feed addictive behaviors which ruin families and deter from the advocacy of social behaviors that support family and independent values. No one with an addiction can continue to care about themselves or their families in the long run. Addictions such as gambling would be fueled by a casino in our midst. Look at the statistics and know that this social evil takes in toll on hundreds of thousands of individuals in lost monies that might otherwise have supported activities more directed to building character and self-esteem. In the long run, putting a casino in the midst of an otherwise thriving community would be the first step in degredation of our members and visitors. Please look upon the welfare of mankind as the ultimate responsibility of the Gaming Commission. NO CASINO is a slogan I am prone to supporting now and in the future. Thank you for your time in considering my plea. Sincerely, Sally Suder, Teacher and resident of Adams County

A casino at the Gettysburg historic site is a desecration of the memory of the sacrifice made by so many and completely out of keeping with Lincoln's eloquent commemoration of what that place means. Memorial should not be crowded out by commerce.

Some things and some places are sacred and must not be sacrificed to easy money. I have no issues with gambling but cannot fathom how anyone could feel that locating a casino so close to the Gettysburg battlefield is appropriate. You know what you have to do to maintain the integrity of the Gaming Control Board. this should not even come to a vote!

I oppose this!

Casinos prey upon a get-rich-quick, something-for-nothing mentality that is antithetical to the supreme sacrifice venerated by Gettysburg National Military Park. The proximity of the proposed casino to the Park would debase the quality of character exemplified by that sacrifice. Please do not allow this to happen.

This is a terrible idea. Please re-read Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. A casino so near this battleground is so wrong. It brings in ugly, consumer-driven, corporate greed to a place that should remain untouched by those values. I don't care how many `jobs` this casino will bring to the area. Revive the manufacturing districts in the commonwealth, build better and more public transportation options, encourage alternative energy industries: **BUT DO NOT BUILD MORE GAMBLING FACILITIES.** They are becoming like a cancer on the land. **STOP PANDERING TO GREEDY DEVELOPERS.** Just focus on the casinos that have already been built, control them tightly, and put a moratorium on all new casino projects. Then stop entertaining requests for **MORE.** Have some courage, and re-read the Gettysburg Address. It will remind you that this isn't just a vacant piece of land waiting for development. It's like Stonehenge, like the Alhambra, like the Everglades. . . places that are uniquely set apart from commerce. Respect the past. Encourage values consistent with what is **GOOD** in America - not greed, not selfishness, not ignorance, but community, social responsibility, knowledge of what makes us great. **NO CASINO** anywhere near Gettysburg, please. In fact, **NO MORE CASINOS** in Pennsylvania. Enough already.

I oppose building a gambling facility in the Gettysburg area.

This area is the most sacred of American historical sites. Please don't detract from the beauty and atmosphere, the overwhelming impression this battlefield makes in a visitor's heart.

Name: **Merle E. Showers** State: **NY** County: **Erie** ID: **1948** RegID: **2136**

Please do not have a casino in the Gettysburg area. This is an area that people all across the nation come to for the view of the Civil War sights, not gambling.

Name: **Christopher Hill** State: **CA** County: **Orange** ID: **1949** RegID: **2138**

I think it would be a travesty for a casino to be built close to Gettysburg, PA. The site of the civil war battlefield is a sacred one and important to all Americans. Please do not approve for a casino to be built on this sacred ground.

Name: **Stephen Q. Shafer**

State: **NY**

County: **Ulster**

ID: **1951**

RegID: **2140**

This is a dreadful idea, a gross insult to all Americans and really to all soldiers everywhere. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania must not give in to this abomination.

Stephen Q. Shafer, M.D., M.P.H

Name: **Judy DeSalvatore** State: **NJ** County: **Ocean** ID: **1952** RegID: **2142**

Please save this special piece of history, not everything is about making money.

Name: **Judy DeSalvatore** State: **NJ** County: **Ocean** ID: **1953** RegID: **2142**

Please do not put a casino on this piece of land

Stop this from happening

Do not build this casino

The creation of the slots facility is a travesty and slap in the face to the reasons I have been there numerous times. Please don't cheapen one of the most cherished American sites (baptised in the blood of our ancestors) for the quick money. I definitely will take my money down to Virginia or other Civil War sites over Gettysburg. The small town feel it has now is what makes it such a wonderful place. I've seen what gambling has done to many areas (see Atlantic City, NJ) where the money goes a very small distance in the local community but adds a whole lot of problems in law enforcement, services, etc.. Keep the area as it is and let it remain what it is...one of the most beautiful and important places in the US.

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It is a sad day in our history when a casino can overshadow such a historic site. Our country has been attacked from every angle, should we allow our history to be destroyed as well. Think of what you are allowing! This element (casino) should not be allowed. History should not be destroyed. Countries across the world hold their historical places in high value. Why would we allow the desecration of ours?? Please reconsider allowing such a tragedy to happen. Allow our children and grandchildren and great grandchildren to enjoy the history of our country without being subjected to the elements of a casino. Allow them to feel, see and sense the history of this place as it was. Thank you.

It is a sad day in our history when a casino can overshadow such a historic site. Our country has been attacked from every angle, should we allow our history to be destroyed as well. Think of what you are allowing! This element (casino) should not be allowed. History should not be destroyed. Countries across the world hold their historical places in high value. Why would we allow the desecration of ours?? Please reconsider allowing such a tragedy to happen. Allow our children and grandchildren and great grandchildren to enjoy the history of our country without being subjected to the elements of a casino. Allow them to feel, see and sense the history of this place as it was. Thank you.

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I do not support the Mason-Dixon Resorts,LP - Cumberland Township, Adams County/Mason-Dixon Resorts, LP slots facility. It does not belong in the historical town on Gettysburg! Gettysburg is a family oriented vacation spot and therefore slots are totally inappropriate.

Name: **Michelle Donner** State: **NY** County: **Dutchess** ID: **1965** RegID: **2146**

It is shameful and hurtful and not a part of MY America to even consider this desecration of such hallowed ground. I have been to the battlefields of Gettysburg several times - and when I go next, if there is a casino, I will fall down and cry at the site of it.

Name: **Deborah I. Churchill**

State: **CT**

County: **USA**

ID: **1966**

RegID: **2148**

I oppose the proposition of building of a casino near the Gettysburg area.

Name: **Deborah I. Churchill**

State: **CT**

County: **USA**

ID: **1967**

RegID: **2148**

I oppose the construction of a casino anywhere near the Gettysburg area.

Name: **Deborah I. Churchill**

State: **CT**

County: **USA**

ID: **1968**

RegID: **2148**

I oppose the construction of a casino anywhere near the Gettysburg area.

Name: **Deborah I. Churchill**

State: **CT**

County: **USA**

ID: **1969**

RegID: **2148**

I oppose the construction of a casino anywhere near the Gettysburg area.

It is now time for you to demonstrate your vision, courage and resolve to preserve the tribute which has been honored by generations of Americans. To trade on the proximity of Gettysburg with a gambling casino is an affront to all those who have made sacrifices during the battle and since to perpetuate the essence of the sacrifice at Gettysburg. It will degrade and cheapen the global image of the greatest small town in America.

Another point I'd like to make, is that I believe the premise of more jobs for Adams County, true or not, is a short-sighted remedy to address a current fiscal crisis. Preservation of the Gettysburg Battlefield, established nearly 150 years ago, will continue to be a symbol of the unity of America, and reverence for those who died here to preserve unity should remain the primary, long-term goal.

I respectfully ask that you show the same vision and courage as that of our forefathers –

Please... resolve to deny the establishment of a casino at Gettysburg.

Name: **lisa rosenthal** State: **va** County: **alexandria** ID: **1971** RegID: **2151**

Oppose

Name: **an lee** State: **va** County: **fairfax** ID: **1972** RegID: **2152**

Gettysburg has a special place as part of our national fabric - would you have a casino built on the National Mall? Or, in Yellowstone?

I oppose this facility at this location.

I oppose this effort.

It is now time for you to demonstrate your vision, courage and resolve to preserve the tribute which has been honored by generations of Americans. To trade on the proximity of Gettysburg with a gambling casino is an affront to all those who have made sacrifices during the battle and since the battle toward perpetuating the essence of the sacrifice at Gettysburg. It will degrade and cheapen the global image of the greatest small town in America.

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address a short-term, economic problem. Preservation of the Gettysburg Battlefield, established nearly 150 years ago, which will continue to be a symbol of the unity of America, and reverence for those who died here to preserve unity should be the primary, long-term goal.

What price patriotism? What price honor? What price sacrifice?

I, as a citizen of a state covered with Civil War battlefields and memorials I find it abhorrenf to think that anyone would find it in any way acceptable to build a Casino near such a sacred and noble location as this. I don`t think that the deaths of so many brave and valiant Americans should be considered so lightly.

Name: **Cecil Kirkman** State: **VA** County: **York** ID: **1982** RegID: **2163**

Our National Historical sites need to be preserved, please oppose the casino!

I am opposed to gambling so close to one of our most important battlefields. This is the place where many many northern and southern soldiers paid the ultimate price, and where Lincoln made that very profound speech which is seen at his memorial in Washington. The battlefield and area around it should be protected for all time.

Name: **Daniel L. Burnfield** State: **Ga** County: **Richland** ID: **1984** RegID: **2168**

I think that this particular location would harm Gettysburg`s appeal to the tens of thousands who travel to the town to remember those brave men who fought there. Please disapprove this application.

I do not support location of a casino so close to historic grounds. Keep the casino away. History is precious and must be cultivated to be remembered. Do not obscure the view back into the past with a casino that could be located anywhere, that will only distract and obfuscate that view backwards. The feeling of a place is important to visitors...keep those feelings connected to what comes naturally from the place and its history.

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We do not consider gaming casinos to contribute a positive view of the stewardship of money, of earning money through labor and provision of services and of contentment. We have two young grandsons who live in Gettysburg. We want them to live in an environment that will be free of the allurements that a casino would bring, along with the associated businesses and activities in the community.

Name: **Jeff Varga** State: **Oh** County: **Cuyahoga** ID: **1991** RegID: **2173**

Please leave this hallowed ground for future generations to realize the struggle it was to become the great country we have become. Though far from perfect, we need to keep the past alive for all who have given the ultimate sacrifice for the this great land.

Name: **Jeff Varga** State: **Oh** County: **Cuyahoga** ID: **1992** RegID: **2173**

Please leave this hallowed ground for future generations to know the struggle our forefathers had to make this country great. Though far from perfect we must not forget the past, and what was done here.

Name: **Jeff Varga** State: **Oh** County: **Cuyahoga** ID: **1993** RegID: **2173**

Please leave this hallowed ground for future generations to learn of the struggle that made this country great. Though far from perfect, we need to remember what was done here and keep it hallowed ground.

Name: **Jeff Varga** State: **Oh** County: **Cuyahoga** ID: **1994** RegID: **2173**

Please keep this hallowed ground, just that. We need to protect what was done to form this union and make it great. Though far from perfect we need to keep every drop of blood alive in our history`s memory.

My great great grandfather, James W. McKown, fought at Gettysburg and survived. In his memory and honor, I urge you NOT to build a gambling facility near the battlefield. Such a facility would be a desecration of this hallowed ground.

We have `gaming` in my hometown of Wheeling, WV. After the initial novelty wore off, it has not added anything of value to the community.

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I was born and raised in Gettysburg; my husband and I were married in Gettysburg, and our children were born in Gettysburg; I work in Gettysburg. My Father was born in Gettysburg as well as my Grandparents. My father fought for his country in WWII, worked hard all of his life in Gettysburg. This is the wrong town for a casino. If it were to come to this special area, we could never go back to the very special life we know here. A casino does not belong in Gettysburg as it`s one of a very few special wonderful towns left in America; please do not bring a casino to this town placing the lives we chose to lead, in jeopardy.

The casino will take jobs from the community and put local businesses out of business, especially restaurants. I visited Cherokee, North Carolina and that is what happened there. Also the Cherokee people were promised lots of money, but got very little. We do not want the same to happen here in Gettysburg.

Name: **Troy Abel** State: **PA** County: **Hamilton** ID: **2001** RegID: **2180**

This effort will only benefit a few and come at a price for so many others. That is the nature of gambling

I'd like to express my opposition to the granting of a gaming license to any entity that would allow or support the efforts of putting a gaming establishment in or around Gettysburg. I understand the pressure that can be brought to bear by citizens in favor of granting the license, and I do know that Casinos and Resorts can provide much needed jobs and revenue, especially in hard economic times.

However it is necessary to consider that no one would be wanting to build a resort in Gettysburg if it were not for the Battlefield and it's significant place in our nation's history. I would urge the GCB to consider that the type of visitor that comes to Gettysburg is much more interested in the historical and cultural value than they are in whether or not they can gamble. A casino resort will diminish the stature of the Battlefield and bring those merely interested in gaming to a site where there is already significant tourist traffic. Just as you would not build a casino in or near other national landmarks like Yosemite, or Yellowstone, or the Tomb of the Unknown soldier, so should you too not allow one to be built near a site so precious and important as the Gettysburg Battlefield.

Thank-you.

The grounds near and around the Gettysburg National Park are sacred. Thousands of men DIED on these grounds and untold others were wounded or their lives for ever changed protecting our freedoms. The thought of additional development in this area and the disturbance of these grounds is troubling to me. My family has seen military combat in every war this great nation of ours has fought in, beginning with our war for Independence, proceeding with the Civil War were we fought on both sides and more recently the war in Afghanistan. These men died defending your rights just as my family did. I am not opposed to gambling, I am opposed to gambling with the future of a historic treasure. Leave GETTYSBURG alone...build your casino elsewhere.

I absolutely love the idea of a Gettysburg casino site. The site does not have direct impact on a residential neighborhood. My family has not visited Gettysburg in over 10 years. I would anticipate that we would visit the area at once per year and also visit the Battleground area. It would definitely become a `must see` attraction when our visiting relatives came to town. I don`t believe the Gettysburg area and historians totally understand would a positive a Gettysburg casino location would be to their area.

Name: **Quinn G. Larson** State: **PA** County: **Chester** ID: **2006** RegID: **2185**

Please stop this nonsense about putting a casino in Gettysburg. This is no location for such a venue!

Please find somewhere else to put your casino. Gettysburg is sacred ground for many Americans and gambling is a dishonor to those who died there.

I am disappointed that we were not able to defeat a casino being built here in Cincinnati. Now the very thought of desecrating Gettysburg with this symbol of greed is heartbreaking. A casino is the antithesis of what this national treasure represents.

Name: **Irene M. Bunner**

State: **PA**

County: **Adams**

ID: **2009**

RegID: **2190**

Dear P.G.C.B,

When making your decision on whether or not to allow a casino in Gettysburg, please just listen to your hearts.

Sincerely,
Irene Bunner

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I have been part of the Gettysburg community (through family) since 1961.

Gettysburg and its local community do not present the most optimal location for a gaming facility. With slots on the way in Maryland and already existing in nearby West Virginia, central PA is the most obvious area that could capitalize on a gambling vacuum as well as support the economy through jobs.

Gettysburg is not the right place for a casino.

Name: **Todd A. Elliott** State: **OH** County: **Fairfield** ID: **2011** RegID: **2194**

I oppose the proposed casino/resort being placed so close to the Gettysburg National Park and on battlefield ground. There are numerous other, more appropriate places for Mason-Dixon to build a resort.

As an American I am absolutely opposed to a Casino anywhere near Gettysburg NMP. I oppose this not only because this place is a National Park belonging to me and every other American but because the park does not encompass all ground on which American fought and died in this struggle. To build something as frivolous as a casino on hallowed ground of this nature is, truly, nothing short of a sin and I cannot believe that it is even being considered. As a resident of a county that houses a casino I can say that little good will come to your residents as a result. End even the idea of this and preserve the memory of those that fought and died that this country may endure and that our future generations may learn from their spirit of commitment, patriotism, and courage.

I had to leave and go to work during the hearing on August 31st, so I missed my time to talk. I was speaker #1154.

This casino project will really help us here in Adams county. We need economic development projects and construction jobs.

I have to drive to DC suburbs everyday.

Please give Mason and Dixon the license.

Thank you.

Please give Gettysburg the Cat. 3 gaming License.

If I could have returned on Sept 1st, I would have spoken at the hearing and referred to the many, many Adams County citizens who support this project and ask that you consider what the local people want. If this were on the battlefield, I can see giving everyone else a say. But it is not, and we need to draw a line in how much outsiders get to say about what we in Gettysburg can do with our private land.

Give us a chance!

Thanks.

Name: **Steve Wilson** State: **md** County: **wicomico** ID: **2015** RegID: **2200**

Instead of near Gettysbury why not near Arlington Ntl Cemetary? Lots more visitors. If you are going for the bucks, why not go all the way!

I oppose having a Casino at Gettysburg. Gettysburg is a national treasure, and trying to commercialize it speaks to everything that's wrong with American values. We need to dedicate ourselves to what's right with American values. I hope you will reject this application.

I live on Rt. 97, Baltimore Pike, one of the main raods linking the Baltimore area to Gettysburg and i oppose a casino in this area. The smaller communities surrounding the site of the proposed casino would be greatly affected by not only the increase in traffic, but also an increase in commercial development such as fast food restaurants and such to cater to the increased traffic back & forth to a casino. I believe the gaming license would be much better suited to a place such as the poconos or similar, where there is already a resort environment in place.

I strongly oppose opening a casino in Gettysburg, one of the most historic towns in America. The ground in Gettysburg is hallowed, and we would be making a mockery of those who gave their lives for their cause in approving a casino so close to the battlefield. God help us if we fail to preserve this sacred spot for our children and grandchildren!

I strongly oppose opening a casino in Gettysburg, one of the most historic towns in America. The ground in Gettysburg is hallowed, and we would be making a mockery of those who gave their lives for their cause in approving a casino so close to the battlefield. God help us if we fail to preserve this sacred spot for our children and grandchildren!

I am opposed to the Mason Dixon Resort Casino because of its LOCATION. For me, it is not about the DISTANCE of the proposed Casino from the Battlefield, but its LOCATION. It sits on one of the most important GATEWAY entrances into Gettysburg. THE prime entrance into Gettysburg from the south - the northern terminus of the JOURNEY THROUGH HALLOWED GROUND. A 19th Century road I have traveled since 1939. As an elected member of the Gettysburg Borough Council, I and other Councillors worked hard to have Gettysburg accepted into the new Federal Heritage Park - Journey Through Hallowed Ground - which commemorates American History from Monticello and Charlottesville northward to Gettysburg. The Union Army's I Corps under Lancaster's General John Reynolds camped on this ground the day before the Battle of Gettysburg. It is HALLOWED GROUND ! A casino should not be the welcoming sign our visitors see when entering Gettysburg from the South. Originally, we heard that the Mason Dixon casino was proposed for a site in the area between Littlestown, PA. and Hanover. In the Hanover Shoe Farm area. I said to myself ` Hurrah ! In Adams County and smack, dab in the middle of horse country. Perfect.? I wish they had stayed with that idea. I would have been a strong supporter. But.... on the Emmitsburg Road (aka Old Carolina Road) - please do not approve a Casino at this location.

My compliments on your very efficient and professional hearings held here in Gettysburg last month.

John A. Murphy
Gettysburg Borough Council (1991-2007)
Commander, USN (Ret.)

No gaming , this is a historical site and should remain so. We have gaming in our town of Temecual, Ca. People come from all over to lose their money...This is a beautiful nation, why do we have to let some things ruin the beauty of what we have already. There is nothing beautiful about casinos and lots of cars...and of course they allow smoking....another bad habit...no to gaming...

I oppose

As a Living Historian, portraying a member of the 96th PVI (One of the First Defenders Units), for the past 13 years, I am opposed in no uncertain terms to a casino being put up anywhere near Gettysburg!.

In my view, to put a casino in Gettysburg , you might as well rewrite the Gettysburg Address, from:

`We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.`

To:

`We have come to dedicate a portion of that field to Slots, Craps, and Card Games. It is altogether fitting proper to do this, as this is what these brave men fought and bled for!

Report Realistic Mason-Dixon Gettysburg Casino Market Assessment dated 9/15/2010 was delivered at the PGCB offices Strawberry Square to the attention of Mickey Kane

My great great grandfather, Maj. H.A. Edmondson, fought at Gettysburg with Armistead at Pickett`s Charge. The proposed casino is disrespectful to the memories of those brave Americans who struggled and died for their beliefs at Gettysburg - this location is highly inappropriate. Please reconsider...

Thank you.

Name: **Susan B. Booker**

State: **Ky**

County: **Fayette**

ID: **2030**

RegID: **2221**

As a direct descendent of a Gettysburg veteran, I highly oppose this proposal. Surely there is a better location for this facility.

Thank you.

I am the g-g-granddaughter of (Confederate) Maj` H. A. Edmondson, who survived Pickett`s Charge and never forgot his wartime experiences. He stated the war was all a big mistake` - so is this casino`s proposed location, which dishonors those brave Americans who struggled and died for their beliefs at Gettysburg. Please reconsider - thank you.

Name: **Susan B. Booker**

State: **Ky**

County: **Fayette**

ID: **2032**

RegID: **2221**

As a direct descendent of one of Pickett`s men, I strongly oppose this location for the casino as lacking in dignity and respect for the brave Americans who struggled at Gettysburg for their beliefs. Please reconsider. Thank you.

Theft Incident at the Eisenhower Inn Thursday 6/10/10

Cross Ref: Testimony of Rev. Ann Dentry, Mason-Dixon Hearings, 9/1/10.

In May, 2010 a pastor of a church in MD (Rev. Ann Dentry, who testified at the PGCB regarding this incident) called and asked me if No Casino Gettysburg would supply materials for her exhibit table in the Exhibit Hall of the MD-DE Lutheran Synod as part of their three day conference to be held in the Eisenhower Inn. She pastors a church within the casino's target market area of persons within a 30-minute drive of the Eisenhower Inn, and lives in Adams County.

I agreed and Rev. Dentry registered her table with the Synod and No Casino Gettysburg was listed as an exhibitor. The Exhibitors are essentially guests of the Synod and have been chosen and approved by the Synod. The Exhibit tables are considered part of the Synod convention and are their responsibility. The pastor paid for the \$50 exhibit fee to the Synod.

The Pastor planned the table and its contents and got all volunteers to staff it. She and I set up the table Wed night and left about 8 pm. I was the first volunteer and when I arrived Thursday morning the table had been disassembled and a note directed me to the Synod's representative. She told me that the management of the hotel wanted the table removed because the hotel management was "trying to get a casino" and didn't want anything in the hotel contrary to that plan.

I returned to the table and carried the material from the table to my car. It was then that I realized that much of the material was missing. Missing were two yard signs, a stack of color flyers, business cards, and the three clipboards on the table had been stripped of the petitions they had held.

I decided to report the theft and went to the office of the hotel. I was directed to the General Manager who refused to tell me his name because he said, "I don't want to." I later learned his name is Michael Gray. He said he wants a casino and this is his hotel and I had no right to be there. I said I was simply the guest of his guests (a 600 member convention of the synod). He reluctantly gave me a form to report the theft to the hotel. (Everyone else I'm met working at the Eisenhower that morning was very helpful, but Mr. Gray apparently did not feel the need to be.) After filling out the form he questioned me if I had witnesses. I told him I was simply a guest volunteer of the pastor who arranged the table and she was a witness as to what we left on the table but that I had no witness as to what was there this morning.

He told me he had seen the exhibit the previous night and had instructed the Synod to take it down. He suggested the Synod personnel could have taken the missing material and went to ask them but they said they had not touched the table. He took my report and when bringing me a copy said "I'm sorry it happened if it happened." I asked what he meant and he said that since I had no witness I could have taken the material myself. I asked if he was calling me a liar but he just repeated with emphasis, "I'm sorry it happened IF it happened." (Actually I recognized him as the unidentified man who was watching me load the car, talking on his cell phone the whole time. So he himself was a witness as to what happened to the table contents.)

I asked him "Did you take the petitions?" and he lowered his head and looked away before looking back and replying "No".

I said I would be filing a report as well with the Cumberland township Police and he said "It doesn't matter. I'll just file with the insurance company and they will pay for the materials."

He then stated that I had to leave because my t-shirt was “a sign”. I told him I felt sorry for him. I meant that he was so angry and distressed that he was clearly an unhappy man but as I walked away he yelled “I feel sorry for you” and other things I could not hear.

I then reported the theft to the Cumberland Township police. The police report as reported in the Gettysburg Times apparently said that my husband was with me but at no time was he in the Eisenhower related to these occurrences. I got a receipt for some of the stolen items and gave the hotel these with a revised report showing the cost of the items at \$92. An unofficial pro-casino website, boroughvent.com, and pro-casino adams county website reported that the manager had destroyed my material. (See below)

The pastor whose table was ejected was rather upset. She went through the rest of the conference letting the attendees know about the incident and distributing the Lutheran Theological Seminary’s statement opposing the proposed casino. The DE MD Lutheran Synod is passed a resolution opposing the Mason-Dixon Casino. If the management had not insulted the Synod like this, that resolution might never have been written or considered. It is unlikely that that convention will ever book with the Eisenhower again. I posted this as a blog on our web and got the following comments:

Because the summary of my police report as given to a reporter was inaccurate, The Gettysburg Times reported that my husband Jim was there and all the pros say over and over is that we were there `without permission` so therefore the manager had a right to destroy our materials. Here is the note from Pro casino Adams County Facebook page:

Pro Casino Adams County

`This very small band of opposition is claiming theft of their property this past week at the Eisenhower Hotel when one, they were never given any kind of permission from the Eisenhower Hotel to set up a table, secondly, they never paid for the table and third, they set this table up on private property. The management had every right to remove this political propoganda from their property. If anything, they were trespassing on the hotel’s good name and grounds. These are the facts in this case plain and simple. For the opposition this is better than a boycott, now they are trying to smear their name. We feel sorry for the hotel being victimized by this group.

June 18, 2010 at 5:22pm`

From the unofficial Pro Casino website, boroughvent.com owner Gene Golden, husband of Cumberland township supervisor Debi Golden.

Gene Golden

`Yes. One little event involving the `victim/ martyr Susan Star Paddock`, and the entire Lutheran Synod will boycott a local business.

That makes sense :/`

`Susan and Jim Paddock must have been giddy with glee over being `behind enemy lines` when they were able to have someone front their NCG propoganda booth/table....

They KNEW they were being slick, yet they cry about the injustice.

To actually report it to the Police though... that took the cake.

Since they knew the reason for their dismissal, they should be hit with filing a false Police report maybe?` to answer:

1. Jim was nowhere near the Eisenhower.
2. The booth was arranged, paid for and registered with the hotel beforehand by the Lutheran synod.
3. The manager told me it didn’t matter as his insurance company would pay for the theft, so if he took the material himself and files a report then that is insurance fraud.

June 16, 2010 at 7:13pm

Elaine McKnight

`Interestingly enough I saw a post on Boroughvent stating that one of the employees at the Eisenhower Inn knew the manager destroyed the missing items of No Casino Gettysburg. I did not understand what the poster was talking about but when I did learn about the incident I went back to Boroughvent to copy the statement and it was gone.`

This incident illustrates the divide in our community from this proposal, and how fighting FOR this proposal has led supporters to engage in threatening and in this case, illegal behavior. Please, when you reject Gettysburg as a casino location, please tell this investor, and others, not to ever propose a casino near Gettysburg again.

I am a resident of Washington DC and a frequent visitor to the Gettysburg area. I love it for its natural beauty and its deep, poignant historical significance. I was trained as a professional historian, and I have numerous family ties to both sides in the Civil War -- with respect to Gettysburg in particular, my family may be related to J. Irvin Gregg, who commanded Pennsylvania troops in the battle and whose name is carved on the Pennsylvania state monument. For all of these reasons, I feel acutely that Gettysburg should be preserved with a minimum of exploitative commercial distraction, such as the proposed casino would represent. It should be developed with a sensitivity to its unique combination of historical and aesthetic assets. But I think my opinion on this matter is not a result of any unique aspects of my own situation. Any American should be appalled at the prospect of Gettysburg becoming known as a gambling destination, and its real significance thereby being obscured.

Name: **John W. Shepps** State: **PA** County: **Centre** ID: **2035** RegID: **2226**

Please do not dishonor my Great Grandfather`s Civil War service, with the 127th Pennsylvania Infantry Volunteers, by opening a casino near Gettysburg or near any other Civil War Battlefield. Thank you.

Name: **Robert A. Cross Jr**

State: **PA**

County: **Centre**

ID: **2036**

RegID: **2227**

No Casinos in or even near Gettysburg!

How would you feel if some money hungry group applied for an application to put a gambling casino next to the cemetary where your relatives are buried? Putting one next to the Gettysburg National Battlefield Park where thousands of our ancestors fought to keep this country intact & free and are now buried here is the same as putting one next to the cemetary where your ancestors are buried. Read the Gettysburg Address which President Lincoln wrote & delevered here on the occasion of the dedication of this historic ground. There are plenty of other sites in Pa. where it can be built without desecrating the hallowed ground where thousands both North & South fought & died to keep this country united or not.

I live about an hour`s drive from Gettysburg. Rest assured that I would not spend one penny to come to visit your ill-conceived resort whenever I visit the Gettysburg National Battlefield Park. I would rather drive the extra 4-5 hours to visit the Atlaantic City Casinos.

Build your slots facility somewhere else in Pa.,as long as it is not anywhere near the hallowed ground of the Gettysburg National Battlefield Park. Another historical land rapist tried to build next to the Manassas Battlefields, & lost that battle to the resulting fight which a band of citizens fought against it, and raised the ire of the country to fight against this pro[posal. We won that battle, and will win this one also.

Instead of building this money-grubing monstrosity of a casino next to the hallowed ground of the Gettysburg National Military Park, I suggest that an alternate site be obtained . What site would I strongly propose is in Wharton Township, Fayette County,Pa. Put itin your own backyard, right next to your tow/county cemetary, or county courthouse.

Gettysburg is a national landmark which is visited by millions of people each year. Just because millions of people come does not mean we should exploit that by building a casino. There are some spots casinos just do not go. Would we put a Casino a half mile from the White House? At the American cemetery at Normandy where so many young Americans gave their lives for freedom? No we would not and we should not put one here. There are plenty of suitable spots for a casino, the Eisenhower Hotel and Conference Center is not one of them. When we hear the word `Gettysburg` let`s have our first thought be about freedom and sacrifice not a casino. Thank you.

Up in New York City they are putting up a Memorial because of 9/11. You want to put a casino on land that a war was fought for America`s freedom. You are doing harm to this property like the people who destroyed the building in New York. How can you justify your reasoning to put a casino on our sacred land in Gettysburg ???

With respect, I request that the matter of a Casino operation in proximity to the Historic Gettysburg Battlefield site be rejected.

I and my family recently visited this site and after not having visited for many years, We were astounded with the magnificent work that has been accomplished by the Battlefield preservation group. I have encouraged many to go see this site and plan to revisit soon. If the Casino Interests are allowed to spoil this site I doubt that we will ever return. Sincerely, Steve Geckle and family

I oppose

Please, `No Casino in Gettysburg`. For the sake of Gettysburg`s future and the message we give to our children - Gambling is not a healthy investment.

I oppose the establishment of a casino at the proposed location in the proximity of the Gettysburg Battlefield.

This location is in the township in which I reside, Cumberland Township. Our Township Supervisors did not make any stipulations or any actual contract with the owners of the casino that would benefit us. I believe the casino will actually increase our property taxes to create the proper infrastructure and to monitor the traffic and other detrimental activities associated with a casino. This is basically a rural area and I really want it to remain that way.

Further, my great grandfather was a Union soldier during the Civil War and I firmly believe that President Lincoln dedicated Gettysburg as a final resting place for those who fought here and I believe a casino is not appropriate so close to this hallowed ground.

I publish a magazine for the building industry and travel throughout Central PA, Maryland and the Philadelphia area. Many people I meet professionally cannot phantom that consideration is being given to placing a casino near the Gettysburg Battlefield.

Further, I believe more money would be generated in one of the other proposed locations that does not have the rural atmosphere that Gettysburg has.

Please consider using one of the other locations.

Thank you,
Evelyn Ganas
146 Hospital Road
Gettysburg PA 17325

Gambling, at whichever venue, is unjust for the following reasons, and is to be avoided especially as a means of engendering revenue for the state that would otherwise be received equitably through taxation of the base:

1. Gambling of any sort savages the poor by providing false hope of riches.
2. Gambling provides an easy opportunity for addicted individuals to feed their illness.
3. Gambling encourages and depends on greed, hardly a personal or civic virtue.
4. Crime and destitution are the historical results of gambling, especially if it is sanctioned by the government, providing legal cover and justification.
5. Gambling is a self-centered, not enjoyed for the `good` it provides to the community. Using the justification that the Lottery `benefits senior citizens`, or that casino gambling will create new jobs or help the economy, is false and disingenuous.
6. Gambling has, until recently, been understood to be a social ill and discouraged by Church and State alike.
7. There will be spiritual/social consequences for funding social `health` on the backs of the poor and needy. The broad witness of the Prophetic literature of the First Testament (`Old Testament`) condemns such social injustice.

The history of this beautiful part of the US - an area unlike any other in our beloved country - should not be sold out to any group or person who wants to prostitute this area.

A casino DOES NOT belong in Gettysburg! A person`s logic says that; unfortunately it`s money that`s speaking louder.

I hope logic wins!

To have a casino in our Gettysburg area would be an injustice to the soldiers who fell here during the civil war. It also has the possibility of doing damage to our family atmosphere in this area. I can't see how gambling close to our small town could improve anything.

My husband and I moved here in 1995 to escape the large city crowds and crime. This is a good place to live. Please don't ruin it.

Name: **robert f. abel** State: **pa** County: **usa** ID: **2062** RegID: **2246**

it would be a disgrace if a casino was allowed to be built near or in the Gettysburg battlefield area.

I hope that the Board applies legal and common sense to this issue, rather than being swayed by the emotional comments provided by both sides.

At issue are two elements that our country and constitution are based upon, free enterprise and freedom of choice. Under our capitalism system, any individual should be able to open a legal business; if the business succeeds, the owner will reap the benefits; likewise, if the business venture fails, the owner will suffer the loss. This is the nature of capitalism.

As an individual, one should have the freedom of choice to either frequent the business or not. It should not be the choice of a third party to determine if an individual supports or frequents a business. As an example, there are many people who do not like large retailers such as Walmart, and that is their right to not shop at there; however, if I like Walmart it is my right to shop there. My freedom of choice should not be inhibited by a third party.

In summary, if the opponents of the Mason Dixon initiative do not want a casino, they need not go to one; however, their opinion should not impede others who enjoy a visit to a casino.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

I think the area needs the casino to boost economy, bring jobs, etc.

Name: **Robin A. Huff** State: **pa** County: **usa** ID: **2067** RegID: **2251**

I Think this would support mor jobs for people likie me and I would like to see the casino come to gettysburg to help on taxes and income to the surrounding business.

Part of the Gettysburg battle took place about 500 yards from the Eisenhower Inn. General Doubleday and troops were camped about a mile west of the Eisenhower Inn the day before the battle of Gettysburg began. The Confederates shelled Doubleday from the vicinity of what is now Boyds Bears, which is across the road from the Eisenhower Inn. Research was done by our neighbor after finding Union artifacts and Confederate shells on his farm.

Also, you probably know that Maryland is in the process of trying to establish a casino between Baltimore and DC, and Wilmington, DE, has approved a casino on the riverfront in Wilmington. These two casinos will likely take most of the business from a Gettysburg casino, so like Boyds Bears, if a casino is allowed here they will be in chapter 11 soon after any casino is operational. You cannot establish jobs if you don't have customers.

Gettysburg is a national treasure that I have visited and enjoyed several times. I do not want the sacred area to be marred by the addition of a resort that includes gambling activities; I feel it is not in keeping with the historic nature of the town and national park.

Rarely have I ever been moved by the depth of my American heritage like I have been in Gettysburg. Anything to cheapen or lessen this hallowed place would be an irreparable travesty for our embattled country. I would rather have a mosque at ground zero than a casino in Gettysburg. I am not a Pa. resident, but I treasure Gettysburg as a reminder of who I am as an American. Please place our heritage over financial gain in this matter.

No Casina

as a honorably discharged US Navy Veteran and a unemployed Creative Consultant - Independent Volunteer Researcher with the QUINDARO RUINS / UNDERGROUND RAILROAD - Exercise 2011.... IT would mean the world to be able to commemorate the 150Th anniversary of the UNION`'s Civil War: without the proposed CASINO looming over this important historical heritage for 21st century inhabitants to appreciate, into the future. thank you,
Marvin S. Robinson,II
Quindaro Ruins / Underground Railroad-Exercise 2011

Please do not let the free market run over one of America`s as well as Pennsylvania`s best assets. I take my family to Gettysburg at least twice a year and learn more history. The casino in the Gettysburg area is just a bad idea. Allow Gettysburg to keep the aura, do not let it become over commercialized. Please vote NO to the casino in Gettysburg!!

Name: **thomas t. greggor**

State: **oh**

County: **cuyahoga**

ID: **2075**

RegID: **2259**

Resort? Gettysburg is not a resort area anymore than Arlington National Cemetery or the shores of Normandy. This is no place for glitz! Beware! The whores are at the doors of a sacred historic treasure. Please put this to rest for all time. Thank you for your time.

Dear Board Members,

We just heard today that Cali Entertainment has reached agreement with Boyd`s Bears to buy their facility to use for an indoor, all seasons Water Park! In case you are not familiar, Boyd`s Bears is located on Cunningham Road just across Emmitsburg Road from the proposed Mason Dixon Site.

They plan to add a resort style hotel to the 100 acre property. What a great addition to Cumberland Township!

With Cali Entertainment and Mason Dixon side-by-side, we will have a winning combination.

Please keep this new information in mind and grant the license to Mason Dixon Resort in Cumberland Township.

Thank you,
Debra Golden, Supervisor
Cumberland Township, PA

I just had to drive to Charlestown in West Va. to play the slots. I would like to keep my money here to benefit Pa. I have many friends in Maryland who would come here and are just waiting for Mason-dixon Resorts to open. Baltimore County , Carroll county and Frederick county all in Maryland with no plans to have a casino near them, Gettysburg would be perfect. As for being near the battlefield, I would rather not see fast foods near, I see it as being nothing but a benefit for Adams County, jobs (Perry County in Md. just opened and hired 350 new people.) tax relief. and I believe if you bring people into Gettysburg they will see how great it is and want to spent more time there which would benefit small businesses.

I support the Gettysburg Casino proposal. I believe many of the arguments against are flawed and can be used to combat a gambling establishment anywhere. These arguments need to be thrown out since gambling is legal in PA. Arguments that stress the battlefield are irrelevant as well. This establishment is NOT proposed for property run by the park service/federal government. It is not even on property that was ever considered for involvement with the park. Some people against gambling are using the park as an excuse to keep it out of their backyard. As far as I know there is no ring around federal property that private land owners have to tip toe around what they do with their private property. This proposal should be viewed just like any other. I just ask that you choose the location that is best for the states revenue. The Gettysburg area is struggling but what area isn't? For that reason I do not use that argument FOR this location but I hope the arguments against are viewed with skepticism. Many of those people that sent in written testimony could not find Gettysburg on a map and hardly any could find the location. In summation pick the location that generates the most revenue for the state as a whole. I HOPE that it is Mason Dixon and I HOPE that you do not let people from outside the state of PA influence a state and local decision.

Thank you!

I oppose the applicant's request to establish a casino in Adams County. Adams County is a rural county with an important national treasure, the Gettysburg National Military Park. As a Vietnam Veteran, I respect the Gettysburg Battlefield and the surrounding area as a hallowed ground in memory of the soldiers who fought here and were wounded or died here. The Park boundaries are not the only areas in the Gettysburg area that these soldiers fought and suffered. Many of our homes, that are not located on the Battlefield served as hospitals and bivouac areas for both the Union and Confederate troops. Establishing a gambling casino in this area would be dishonoring the soldiers who fought in the Battle of Gettysburg and would be an affront to all veterans who are all too easily forgotten.

I am opposed to the current casino application for Gettysburg. Adams County is a small rural entity with the main industries of Fruit Farming and the Gettysburg National Military Park, both of which complement and enhance our beautiful country landscape. The casino industry with its high profile City business image does not complement the Gettysburg environment. A much better location for the last gaming license would be Nemaquin Woodlands Resort, already a successful well established business offering numerous forms of visitor entertainment that a casino would complement and enhance.

I am horrified to learn that there is consideration of a gambling facility in historic Gettysburg. My family has visited the battlefield on multiple occasions, and we have encouraged other families to do the same. We will not be as interested nor will we encourage others to go if the landmark is polluted in this way. It seems to us an insult to the men who fought there and to the dignity of the site and the city, as well as ruining a very family-friendly destination. This is a shocking disappointment.

Name: **Mary E. Tyler** State: **PA** County: **Adams** ID: **2082** RegID: **2268**

I think the Mason-Dixon Resort coming to the Adams County area would be a great asset, not only would Adams and other surrounding counties benefit, but so would many persons that are unemployed.

It is with great distress that I write these comments - how many times will we have to fight this battle? There are so many reasons on so many levels that we should not have a casino here. I have read glowing comments on the wonders gambling has brought to Vicksburg. My husband and I visited Vicksburg several years ago when having a casino in Gettysburg first came up. We visited specifically to see what it had done for the town. What we actually saw was a very run-down town with boarded-up houses and businesses. If the casino had been of benefit to Vicksburg, we could not see where, and what a mess it must have been before the blessings from the casinos!

Our township has been `bought` by the aura of \$\$\$\$. The promise of lower taxes, wonderful jobs, etc. is a lovely dream, but we have never heard of taxes going down anywhere or having as much money as we need for schools, etc. as a result of the influx of money from gambling of any sort, whether it be casinos, the lottery, lotto, etc. This is a pipe-dream.

The backers of this proposed casino claim to have the welfare of the town in mind. If so, their altruistic money would be better spent building up our area directly, putting the money into encouraging new businesses, helping struggling businesses stay open and stay on their feet, providing employment in various endeavors, helping with the infrastructure and social problems we already face, etc. instead of promising the moon when what they really have in mind is lining their own pockets.

It is a sad thing when we put our hopes for better education for our children, a better way of life in our town on getting the money to do so through taking it away from some of those very folks, particularly the lower income sector. It is not the wealthy that spend their money in casinos, for the most part, but those who are hoping on hitting the jackpot to become wealthy and how many of those dreams actually happen? We love this town and this area and want to see it alive and viable. There is a smalltown feel while at the same time having exposure to many and various activities and culture. Our tourists are a wonderful asset in keeping our town lively. We deeply honor its history. We pray that Gettysburg will not be attacked again and overrun by those who do not.

I am a business owner in Adams county Cumberland township and would like to say that we may have to close our doors if something doesnt come along and give this area a boost in the economy, we are in limbo and with this casino comes opportunity and growth....I would hate to have to tell my employees gp stand in line again...please, please think fo rthe better of this project. Thank you

As a boy, my father took me to experience the historical sites of historic Gettysburg where I learned of the many sacrifices that were made for our nation during a very difficult time. The stories of heroes and sacrifice resonated in me so much that I decided to study and teach US history which I have been doing for the past 20 years. The impact of Gettysburg not only impacts my teaching but has allowed me the opportunity to share its history with my son as we have taken several trips there together. I do not support the building of a casino in the historic Gettysburg area. I think a 30 mile buffer should be enacted to protect the sacred ground of those battlefields and surrounding area.

Please do not put a casino near Gettysburg PA. This nice family town need to be preserved as it is for our children and their children. There are not hardly any preserved history sites anymore in the U.S. Please don`t ruin this one. A casino has no business being near Gettysburg.

This is hallowed ground, please do not allow this to happen in Gettysburg. I spend many `Volunteer` hours for the National Park Service at Gettysburg, this is not what Gettysburg is all about.....Please preserve the history for generations to come.

The name `Mason-Dixon` Resorts is an unconscienable marketing technique giving no need of further evidence that it is the close proximity to Gettysburg that these people wish to profit from. I tried to take my sons to the fields at Gettysburg once to see where their 4th great grandfather was wounded but the entire area was a Disney world. Is it possible for a court to prevent some greedy men from profiting from a national tragedy and taint its ground? I vote no! Whatever local economy can boosted can not replace Pennsylvania`s sacred ground.

Good Day Ladies and Gentlemen

I was scheduled to speak at the August 31st hearing, but due to illness had to leave before it was my turn. Following is what i wished to say.

I'm Bruce C. Storrs, Sr.
U.S. NAVY RETIRED, RADIOMAN SENIOR CHIEF

WE HAVE BEEN RESIDENTS OF THE FAIRFIELD AREA IN 1991.

UNFORTUNATELY, I HAVE PARKINSON'S DISEASE AND DIABETES. THAT IS THE REASON FOR THE MOTORIZED SCOOTER.

MY WIFE AND I ENJOY PLAYING THE SLOT MACHINES AND OCCASIONALLY THE TABLE GAMES.

HOWEVER, THE TRIP TO HOLLYWOOD CASINO IS WHAT WE CONSIDER EXCESSIVELY LONG WHICH LIMITS OUR GAMBLING TO ONCE A QUARTER OR LESS.

WE BELIEVE A CASINO IN THE GETTYSBURG AREA WILL BE A GOOD THING FOR THE COMMUNITY AS IT WILL HELP STABILIZE OUR RISING TAXES AND PROVIDE MUCH NEEDED JOBS.

PERSONALLY NOT HAVING TO TRAVEL TO OTHER CASINOS IS A BLESSING IN DISGUISE, BECAUSE WE WILL BE ABLE TO GET GOOD QUALITY MEALS AND ENJOY THE ENTERTAINMENT THAT MR. LEVAN IS PLANNING ON BRINGING IN IF YOU GIVE HIM THE CASINO LICENSE.

THANK YOU.

GOOD DAY LADIES AND GENTLEMENT

I WAS SCHEDULED TO SPEAK AT THE AUGUST 31st HEARING, BUT MY HUSBAND BECAME ILL AND WE HAD TO LEAVE BEFORE IT WAS MY TURN.

MY NAME IS PRISCILLA STORRS AND I AM A RESIDENT OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY. I LIVE LESS THAN 15 MINUTES FROM THE PROPOSED CASINO AND I AM WRITING TO HELP CONVINCING YOU THAT WE NEED A CASINO IN THIS AREA.

OUR TAXES HAVE STEADILY RISEN OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS AND THE COST OF LIVING HAS GONE UP WHILE OUR RETIRED PAYCHECKS HAVE NOT, ESPECIALLY WITH NO COST OF LIVING INCREASE FOR THIS YEAR AND WE JUST FOUND OUT THERE WON'T BE ONE FOR NEXT YEAR.

IF YOU GIVE MR LEVAN THE LICENSE TO OPERATE A CASINO HERE, IT WILL HELP TO STABILIZE OUR TAXES AS WELL AS HELP IMPROVE THE 10% + UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN THIS COMMUNITY.

WE NEED THE CASINO TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIVING OF MANY OF THE RESIDENTS IN THIS AREA WHO HAVE NO JOBS OR ARE WORKING MULTIPLE JOBS JUST TO SURVIVE AND CARE FOR THEIR FAMILIES.

THEREFORE, I AM ASKING YOU TO PLEASE GRANT MR. LEVAN THE LICENSE HE NEEDS SO HE CAN HELP TAKE CARE OF THE NEEDS OF OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY.

THANK YOU.

PRISCILLA E. STORRS

Name: **William C. Baldwin** State: **De** County: **New Castle County** ID: **2095**
RegID: 2286

Please, Please, Please do not authorize a casino at Gettysburg

I object to the casino being considered in Gettysburg. To cheapen this sacred land is outrageous. To see what happens when gambling is allowed at a historic site, go to Deadwood, S.D. It used to be a neat tourist destination; now, it is wall-to-wall slot machines.

Hello,

My name is Lena Zlock, and I am thirteen and presently in 8th grade. The occasion of my having been notified of the planned casino developments staged near the Gettysburg battlefields has brought forth the following response in the face of corruption, ignorance, impudence, insolence, greed, and all other aspects of the socially gangrened world that is 21st-century entertainment.

Being the citizen of a country with a glorious history filled with revolutionary, experimental, radical, and unprecedented ideals, events, and people, I could not help but vociferate about the new developments in the quaint little town of Gettysburg which will ultimately prove detrimental to a wide cross-section of the public, and illuminate the common sense which seems to have abandoned those with the reins of power and finances in their hands.

Recent plans have slowly started to evolve, circulating around a proposed casino on the grounds of the Gettysburg battlefield, the last stand for 17,000 men: brothers, fathers, sons, husbands, friends. In more metaphorical terms, the entertainment industry, and the detriments to society that trail in its wake, is to descend upon hallowed ground. The community and persons who partake in the struggle over whether or not to approve the establishment are divided. There are two primary aspects of the case: one from the view of a person that judges by the rules of common sense, patriotism, and for the wellbeing of their nation and their community. Then there is the business owner, the tourist yearning for a more exciting experience: commerce. I have decided, based on the principles abovementioned to place my stand with the former.

The greatest of historic icons in America adhered to the idea that "All Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." America's foundation stands on that proposition, and others that have placed in stone what it means to be human. Over the course of three days, in which the darkest forces of human nature and its devised machinations collided, those creeds were defined in the blood of Americans, persons of a nation divided. It was a test of who we are as a people, a test of the creeds dreamed by the founders. 17,000 souls sacrificed their lives for what they believed was the true course for the American nation. If we are to reflect upon ourselves, and the world that surrounds us, we are to be as blind as bats if we cannot distinguish the independence and freedoms we enjoy, and unfortunately, the inevitable truth that we are nearly sole in our happiness. We are bound to an eternal debt to the soldiers that perished through smoke-filled mornings and nights filled with screams of agony as they met their fate. It is difficult for many of us to comprehend and appreciate the true depth of the matter, but a visit to Gettysburg, land of gentle fields, quiet atmosphere, and bountiful nature, will change all that. People come from all over the nation to spend several moments of solemnity, whether over the grave of a general or atop a slope where the beauty that surrounds you was lost to musket shots, cannon fire, and death. The same air can be felt in the air of the town of Gettysburg, a cunning village that lives by the classical small-town credos that have defined America. Whatever emanates from an establishment such as a casino will ultimately clash with all that. As well, we would be foolish, ignorant, and disrespectful to trample such consecrated ground with corrupt businesses. It would seem as though the efforts of the men who perished there, and those before them in America's wars, as well as those of the Founding Fathers, would be all for naught. It would leave a blot upon our reputation as a nation that stands by the concept "amor patriae ducit," a reputation that is already slowing declining.

It truly doesn't fit into the picture.

Like a lawyer engaged in a deep and intense case, I present my next point, which pertains to the socioeconomic and their separate affects. A history buff, my foremost concern is the division that is slowly driving away our citizens, especially the younger persons, from their past and their heritage. What can serve as a better distraction than a casino, especially considering the high levels of gambling addiction that have plagued America from the 1700's and earlier. The focus, for the most part, would shift from an experience intended to educate a person about one of the most crucial events in American history and foster a deeper appreciation for and love of country to a more social and party-centered scene. Taking into consideration the stereotypes children possess about history, this will place them further from what is essential to our lives, and we are all well aware of what happens when we ignore history. This further connects to another issue, which perfectly segways into the economic implications.

If one studies the majority of persons employed at the park, there are few die-hard history buffs. Many may even be volunteers. Coupled with the plight of our financial standing, a casino offers high prospects, regardless of its rude entry onto revered ground. Reenactors, especially, provide for a more engaging, interesting, and exciting environment. If they are to be drawn away by high financial hopes, that all would die, including the tourism, which, as in a chain of dominos, could possibly have disastrous effects on the town, which relies heavily on the peaceful fields strewn with graves and shrines. Now look at the population that tends to accompany a casino: corrupt businessmen, prostitutes, criminals, and all the other negative facets of our society. How can one even look upon a charming little town such as Gettysburg being overrun with such social mishaps and not feel a tinge of sadness? That would deliver even greater blows to tourism levels- depending on which side of the spectrum you're on.

Then it becomes a matter of respect and common sense. Respect, not only for a national shrine, but for the people inhabiting Gettysburg, and common sense in general. In a documentary made upon the subject, one resident, a public defendant, stated that 80% of the cases with which she had dealt related to gambling addiction. A casino, so close and so easily accessible, would only ruin more lives beyond those who are diseased. Another inhabitant complained that the installation would be placed in front of her home, the lights and the sounds of the nighttime activity affording no room for daily comforts which she enjoyed, such as sitting out on her front porch. Others are angered that such a monument, one that they have gratefully embraced as their own, and theirs to preserve and take care of, would be so vilely intruded upon. One would have to be truly blind to come barging in, acting with all the air of a Wall Street "fat cat," and have little or no regard for the people. It is similar to the all-too familiar scene of the no-swimming sign with garments draped over it. In the field of common sense, there is little explaining to be done, unless you are entirely ignorant of the past. As one actor, Matthew Broderick, who played the character of Colonel Robert Gould Shaw in the film *Glory* and participant in the documentary, pointed out, there are dozens, hundreds upon hundreds, thousands upon thousands of places elsewhere that a casino may be placed. If the developers think that this will further boost the economy of Gettysburg, they are much mistaken. It will boost a town down on its luck, not a town that houses one of America's greatest shrines to human freedoms.

In conclusion, our legacy and our posterity will be stained if we permit such a felony to occur. It is the job of every citizen, whether or not inhabiting Gettysburg or Pennsylvania, to ensure that these places, the events, and the people that are connected to them are not overrun and forgotten. It would be a slap to the lifelong work of the Founding Fathers. To the state of Pennsylvania, the state Gaming Control Board, the developers of this casino, and to the citizens of our nation, I beseech you to look once again at the abyss of whose edge we traverse precariously. Millions of men did not die so that their places of last stand may be shadowed by our foolish toys of entertainment.

Sincerely,
Lena Z.

What the heck do you think you are doing even considering a casino anywhere near Gettysburg???? Gettysburg is a hallowed national historic site. The site should be preserved for future generations and should not be disgraced by a casino. You are tasked with the responsibility to maintain this hallowed ground. Don't let the memory of those whose blood was spilled here to maintain our country and its values be traded for a few dollars. Don't fail them and the community. Don't fail the future generations who rely on you to set an example and defend what is right. Protect and fight for the values of this country as those at Gettysburg did and deny the request for a casino anywhere near Gettysburg.

My great-great grandfather, a soldier with the 2nd Massachusetts Infantry, was shot and wounded at Culp`s Hill, July 3rd, 1863. Please don`t sully his memory, nor the memory of any of those brave men who fought, suffered, and died at Gettysburg with a gambling facility close by. Adams Co. is hallowed ground. Don`t cheapen and debase our cherished history with this kind of blemish on the landscape. And don`t fall for the jobs argument. There are more respectable ways to generate jobs here; that`s just an excuse. Thank you.

Name: **Ken Turner** State: **PA** County: **Cumberland** ID: **2104** RegID: **2294**

KEEP IT AWAY FROM GETTYSBURG. HAVE SOME RESPECT.

Don` t do it. Go somewhere else

Please do not grant a license to our rural, historic town. This type of entertainment and money making scheme clashes with the whole theme and nature of this local and national resource. Let us not tarnish the name and location of Gettysburg with a casino. Thank you.

Name: **LAURA E. STARNER** State: **PA** County: **ADAMS** ID: **2129** RegID: **2322**

I AM STRONGLY AGAINST A CASINO IN GETTYSBURG. IT WOULD BE A VERY POOR CHOICE, PLEASE DO NOT LET MONEY AND ENTERTAINMENT RUIN WHAT WE HAVE HERE.

As an Active Duty Member, I am appalled at the suggestion of a Casino at Gettysburg. Having joined many fellow officers to reflect on this hallowed ground, a casino is the ultimate in commercializing the sacrifices of our forefathers and the military legacy of our nation. This is a very bad idea and precedent, if Gettysburg is not sacred no other battleground is beyond the reach of the most vile expressions of commercialization. Most people carry with them the lessons of Gettysburg, not retire to slots, blackjack, and roulette after a battlefield tour. There is a proper place for gambling and the Gettysburg National Battlefield is not it.

Hello, My husband and I live just 1 1/2 mi from the Eisenhower Inn Resorts where Mason Dixon Casino Resorts will re-purpose this site.

Our County here in Adams is one of the poorest in the State. Being that this is a Battlefield Tourist vacation spot and watching tourism go downward every year along with jobs and yet taxes go higher, ours at 67% assessment. It is time for this town to embrace new businesses that will promote jobs, revenue and spart interest in new businesses to invest here. Boyds bear is a business that is situated much closer to the Battlefields. It is a business world renound and no one person, group advocate has ever tried to stop it from being built here in 2002. Therefore I am saying all business ventures that will give tourism a boost and create revenue that does not harm the morals of our community should be allowed to open here in Gettysburg. There is no `hallowed ground` that will be desecrated by permitting Mason Dixon Casino Resorts to come to this city.

Just as Mayor Paul E Winfield Esq of Vicksburg Ms wrote you in a letter that I read as testimony. The Casino Industry will be a win win for our county. His City in Vicksburg is thriving and growing thanks to the gaming control and the revenue it offers. Their tourism is up every year by over 120,000 people yearly! The fearmongering will no longer resist.

The placement of this casino resort near the Maryland Line here in Southern Adams also is strategically placed and will help keep revenue here instead of those who travel south to the racetracks in W Va. We need the revenue and we need this Business. Please for our residents here in this County here in Adams grant this opportunity to us.

Mr David LeVan has done so much for our County. The Majestic Theatre, Battlefield Harley Davidson and many many charities. All have proven a tract record undisputable. I believe the Mason Dixon Casino Resorts will reach out to families as well as gamers and offer a variety of entertainment for all ages. It is so desperately needed and wanted by this community. Thank You very much.

I oppose the Mason-Dixon proposal on two grounds. First, as a Vietnam veteran I understand the honor that should be paid to places where so much was sacrificed and for our Union so much won.

Unfortunately, I don't think that will sway you much, which brings me to my second objection. The Gettysburg casino is a bad economic choice. I am not referring to the devastating negative economic impact the casino will have on Gettysburg and the surrounding areas. I am talking about the fact that the Gettysburg casino is the least potentially profitable options before you. All of the economic studies done to support the Gettysburg casino can't accurately assess the impact of the Maryland casinos because none were open until last week. The studies were also done too early to take into account the continuing decline in the economy.

Your `resort` license should go to a facility in a `resort` area, the Poconos. Your mandate is to give a license to the entity that will generate the most long term profit for the State. The Poconos is a long established resort area attracting many more types of people who are much more likely to use and return to a casino than are the visitors to Gettysburg.

Please vote with the wallets of the people of Pennsylvania in mind, (and I hope your hearts and souls as well) and grant the license to the group in the Poconos and preserve and honor the sacrifices made in Gettysburg.

Thank you for your consideration in reading my comments.

Ron De Munbrun

Name: **David C.. Ames**

State: **AR**

County: **White**

ID: **2136**

RegID: **2334**

I am opposed to the licensing ofMason Dixon Casino in Gettysburg PA. It would be an abomination to allow this any where near such hallowed ground.

Name: **Rodger Barnes**

State: **Tx**

County: **Travis**

ID: **2137**

RegID: **2335**

Desecrating a National monument with a casino would be an insult to humanity and to those laid there. It hurts my heart just to think of such a travesty.

Name: **Rodger Barnes** State: **Tx** County: **Travis** ID: **2138** RegID: **2335**

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ID: **2139**

RegID: **2335**

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Name: **Debi Dillon** State: **PA** County: **Adams** ID: **2141** RegID: **2337**

sdfg

1. Gettysburg is the most written about battle in the history of man. Please do not give a casino a Gettysburg address.
2. Maryland has legalized gambling. This could cut down on business coming from the south (Baltimore and or Washington). If not from Maryland where do they expect to draw clients from. (Harrisburg and York residents can very easily go to Hollywood Casino in Harrisburg)
3. I find it hard to believe the traffic study that says there will not be very much affect on traffic. For all the people they project coming to this proposed casino it would surely create more traffic on that two lane road. Are they planning to drop the people in from helicopters?
4. You can twist the reports and figures anyway you want, but I really don`t think the jobs created in this casino (I have heard anywhere from 350 to 900 (any split you can imagine for part time or full time) will save our local economy.

Thank you for reading my comments. Please do not allow gambling in Historic Gettysburg.

Sincerely,

Carol Detweiler

I do not think a casino is appropriate with a Gettysburg Address. Please do not award the license to Mason Dixon.

I am a resident of Adams County and I and my family fully support this casino for a number of reasons.

1. I am currently unemployed and this is a perfect opportunity for me to get a job in a slow economy.
2. My family and I feel that this would be a GREAT boost in the local tourism and local business industries that will grow with the coming years. With the renovations that will be made to the existing property there will be a great number of jobs for everyone to benefit from.

Allowing this casino to open will be a long term positive for so many people and can only make our community stronger.

I am writing to express my opposition to the development of a casino at the proposed site in Gettysburg by Mason-Dixon Resorts, LP. The reasons for supporting such an endeavor focus mostly on economic justifications such as creation of jobs, tax revenue and boosting the local economy. In times of economic downturn and stress such a proposition may appeal to many people. However, if the casino is granted Gettysburg and all it stands for will be changed forever. The attraction of Gettysburg comes from its place in history and visitors come from all over the world to learn of how we as a country overcame internal conflicts and adversities and ultimately triumphed in cleansing and unifying ourselves.

Gettysburg has a proud history and is considered by people both within our country and throughout the world as sacred and hallowed ground. To my knowledge there has never been a clamor by the citizens of Gettysburg or from others outside our community to be overly concerned about economic development, nor have I never heard community members advocating for a casino, in fact most citizens I speak with abhor the idea of such an endeavor. Basically, Gettysburg is a small town with simple values and a unique heritage. In this context how could anyone view the development of a casino as consistent with what this town stands for? How will the history books our children read in generations to come record events of the past? The Gettysburg Address happened here and so did a casino. What are we teaching our children and each other when we advocate for economic interests over the well being of an entire community and the protection of emotional connection many feel to Gettysburg? As a practicing mental health professional in Gettysburg I view the social problems a casino will likely bring as having significant risks and that often surround this sort of environment including compulsive gambling, alcohol misuse, anti-social type behaviors and destruction of property, including the battlefield. To me the prospects of a casino can only serve economic interests but has no place in the heart and soul of the Gettysburg community. I oppose this proposal, now and forever.

Name: **Bryan J. Spangler** State: **PA** County: **Cumberland** ID: **2149** RegID: **2343**

Leave this area for the battlefield. There are other areas competing for this lisenca let a independant resort area have it.

Name: **William McCaffrey**

State: **PA**

County: **USA**

ID: **2150**

RegID: **2344**

I would like to voice my strong opposition to the proposed casino in the vicinity of the hallowed ground at Gettysburg. We can honor the service and sacrifice made on that field best without a casino in the vicinity. I strongly urge you to deny this request and preserve the integrity of one of this nation`s greatest historical treasures.

Name: **Denise Fox** State: **PA** County: **USA** ID: **2151** RegID: **2345**

I wish to urge the commission to reject the proposed casino at Gettysburg. We do a great disservice by allowing a casino at this hallowed ground. Please deny the request before you.

Name: **Ida Rose Behrle**

State: **PA**

County: **USA**

ID: **2152**

RegID: **2346**

Please deny the request to build a casino at Gettysburg. Save our history for my children and grandchildren. Let them know that the sacrifice of americans is worth more that table games and slot machines!

As a fan of history and of the values on which this country was built, I strongly oppose a casino in Gettysburg. I truly have a moral problem with casinos, which tug at the more base desires of mankind.

Gettysburg, of all places, ought to be a place to celebrate the solid work-ethic and moral character on which our heritage is built. It ought to remind us of the need to apply ourselves toward accomplishing tasks of value, and to invest prudently in our own futures.

Casinos teach the opposite. The allure of quick money, the appeal of twinkling slot machines, the thrill of risk-taking (and mathematically poor risk-taking), and the teasing chance to `win it all back!`

It runs counter to our values, and contributes to a slowly degrading society.

Please deny a permit.

Name: **Tana Paddock** State: **QC** County: **??** ID: **2155** RegID: **2350**

Please consider alternative approaches to economic development for Gettysburg- approaches that build on the strengths of the community and that support rather than degrade the economic base that has already been created around heritage tourism. Thank you!

The final hearings will be in November in Harrisburg. I'm sure you will reach the right decision in denying the Mason- Dixon permit. The other locations are most suitable for gambling activities! Gettysburg is not Atlantic City nor Las Vegas, it is a hallowed Historical Landmark. Our little businesses have thrived thus far, and will continue to do so without a gambling enterprise. This issue is dead gentlemen, make the right choice and reward the class three to one of the more suitable applicants. If you do not, it will remain in your conscience forever. Marv Brilliant

I think that the market is becoming saturated with too many gambling outlets in the area. To believe we need another is foolhardy and short sighted. I lived in NJ when Atlantic City was born, and 30 years later, rest assured the people in the community see little for their efforts. Look at what a casino is like. You enter, have great restuarants, gift shops and gambling, with no clocks or windows. It is designed to keep you there and let you waste away hours without having to leave. Your community won` t benefit from this, it will only increase demands on your infastructure with no real return. Alot like gambling with your future. Send them packing to somewhere else. Gettysburg does not need, nor should it want this.

I have visited Gettysburg on five occasions since 1989. I intend to be there in 2013 for the 150th anniversary of the greatest battle ever in the western hemisphere. I will NEVER SPEND ONE DIME in a casino anywhere near that battlefield.

You know, we`ve been through this before. People go to Gettysburg to honor and remember the Americans who fought and died there. It is a special place, incompatible with the whole idea of gambling for money. Sure, Lee gambled, so did Meade, but their gambles were attempts to win a war.

You already know what the right thing to do is, and you have my support in the struggle against another invasion of the peaceful fields of southern Pennsylvania.

As a retired military officer and a descendant of a union soldier who fell at Gettysburg, I am outraged that any thought would be seriously given to having a casino in or immediately adjacent to the Gettysburg area. As the site where the U.S. military experienced its greatest battle losses in our country's history, this ground and surrounding area **MUST** be kept sacred and unspoiled so that future generations will visit and understand the important role this area had in U.S. history. Not as a place to go and shoot craps !!!!

I urge the Gaming commission and casino applicant to find an alternative siting outside Gettysburg.

THIS PART OF THE BATTLEFIELD IS ALREADY DEVELOPED, SO THERE IS NO NEED TO BE AGAINST THIS
DUE TO THINKING IT IS TAKING AWAY FROM THE BATTLEFIELD. ALSO ADAMS CO. NEEDS THE JOBS THAT THIS WILL CREATE.

Thousands died in Gettysburg. They should be remembered and revered, not gambled on top of.

Placing a casino near the battle ground and cemetery that is Gettysburg. The reason that Mason-Dixon Resorts want the Gettysburg name for their casino is to Profit from the national interest of this Battle Ground. This is not a way to honor the individuals who gave their lives for this country.

Don` t think casinos are best for the world

Name: **Prabagar Murugan** State: **PA** County: **Cumberland** ID: **2190** RegID: **2401**

As residents of Cumberland county, We strongly oppose the casino at our community. We even ready to pay higher taxes if that is the reason for the casino here.

I am opposed to the Gettysburg casino on several fronts. First, I oppose any gambling casino on moral grounds as I personally know people whose lives have been ruined by gambling.

I am especially opposed to having a gambling casino so close to the battlefield, as I feel it desecrates what the battle field represents.

Thirdly, it wouldn't matter if it brought a thousand billion dollars to the area, I am still opposed, especially when people who live in areas where casinos have been opened testify to the fact that the economic impact is always greatly exaggerated because they only count the money coming in, but they don't include the economic losses incurred by so many people in the local area. I would like it put somewhere that no one can find it if it has to be built. What ever you do, don't put it anywhere near Gettysburg.

I would like to object in the stongest terms to the proposed siting of a casino by Mason-Dixon Resorts in the environs of the Gettysburg battle site. As a Brit with family in the US, I am horrified that an American state would be prepared to develop a national monument of huge international as well as national importance. America has an unrivalled reputation for preserving historical sites around the world giving money, personnel and expertise. Americans are here in the UK working preserving Roman, Saxon and Viking sites in the UK. Meanwhile back home in the US one of the most important battle sites in world history is about to be corrupted, not by a hospital or school but by a casino !!

Please build it elsewhere and keep Gettysburg special. People from far and wide stand shoulder to shoulder with the people of Gettysburg who have done so much to preserve this site of world importance. The Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board is in the spotlight and must remember that it holds the reputation of Pennsylvania in its hands. History and honour on one hand, infamy on the other. Please stop this inappropriate proposal. Thanks Martin Jones Cheshire, UK.

Name: **dixie d. brown** State: **pa** County: **york** ID: **2208** RegID: **2424**

no please don`t put casino in

Because the anemic nature of their proposal, I would like to see much more information before comparing their submission against the other three petitioners.

I oppose the casino for our Gettysburg area. I feel the benefits will not outweigh the cost and/or negative impact on this community. I further believe the fact that this community is a National Military Park should take precedence and be honored and kept only as a National Military Park solely dedicated to honoring those who gave their lives. A casino is a place offering games of chance merely for entertainment. This community is dedicated as a historical site, not an entertainment area. Those who desire such may move, go elsewhere, or invest in another area. Why do you have to bring it here!

SAME COMMENTS AS I STATED FOR THE FIRST ONE

Although this is my birth area and I return to it very frequently, I am a Catholic Priest who has great concern for this hallowed and historic community. Any where I go into many states, I get the same reaction -- do NOT let them put gambling opportunities on this Sacred Battlefield. I totally agree -- I totally disagree to putting these facilities in the area of The Gettysburg Battlefield! Thank you. May God aid you in making the right decision. Fr Jim Miller, C.PP.S.

Having only recently completed my first visit to the Gettysburg National Military Park, I was horrified to learn of a proposal to place a gambling casino within a stone`s throw of the Park. I find this outrageous in light of the fact that the Park is as much our country`s national cemetery as is Arlington National. There is no more hallowed ground in our entire nation than Gettysburg. As a former resident of Pennsylvania, I know there already are casinos in the Commonwealth (and no pressing need to put one in Gettysburg, let alone next to the Park) and there is much pressure to add more casinos because of the current economic times impacting state revenues. Yet, hoped for revenues siphoned from gamblers can never serve as any justification for the desecration of the Park. I urge the Gaming Control Board to recognize the legacy of Gettysburg which we all share because of the blood spilled on its ground, the Union victory which led to the final outcome of our nation`s only Civil War, Lincoln`s Gettysburg Address, and the important and relevant symbol which the Park has become and will continue to be for dozens of future generations of Americans. Please do not let greed (and a few jobs as cocktail waitresses and slots managers) blind the Board`s eyes to the devastating impact that a casino will have on the Park and any American`s future visit to Gettysburg. To do otherwise would show the Board to be morally bankrupt. Thank you.

Please don't give another thought to a casino in Gettysburg.

I am a life time resident of Adams County, served in the military and desire to continue living here. I feel it would be a disgrace to our American heritage to allow a casino to within 1/2 mile of the Gettysburg National Park or any casino close by that would use the name Gettysburg. It would dishonor those that fought and died for our country. We may have motels, restaurants and retailers to serve our tourists but that doesn't mean we need to further desecrate the battlegrounds which encompasses our area. There are thousands of casinos but only one GETTYSBURG.

Ugh, this will be an eyesore in an otherwise gorgeous community. In 10 years it will be rundown and it will smell, put it somewhere else.

I think the addition of the Mason-Dixon Resort would help boost our local economy. I feel that it would bring more people to Gettysburg who might not have come. I also do not think it will effect any of our local businesses negatively as they will not offer any thing that we currently have available. The land thought it was once part of the battlefield is privately owned, and should be allowed to go there. Please give us the licence.

I am strongly opposed to a gaming license being granted to the Mason-Dixon Resorts for Adams County. Gettysburg and its battlegrounds are a national treasure that should not be sullied by placement of a casino nearby. Thousands of lives were lost there, and those lives should be remembered and honored. A casino would serve to diminish the hallowed ground in Gettysburg and should be strongly opposed by any American. Gettysburg needs to be preserved in its current state. The jobs the casino would provide are secondary compared to the permanent damage a casino would do to this sacred ground. Please note that I am fully aware that the casino will not be placed on the grounds at Gettysburg but will be placed nearby. I stand by my comments that it will permanently alter the experience at Gettysburg.

Name: **Suzanne R. Miller**

State: **PA**

County: **Hampden**

ID: **2253**

RegID: **2463**

This has some area to expand and has the facilities to accommodate 250 guests.

Name: **wendy w.. erich** State: **CT** County: **fairfield** ID: **2256** RegID: **2464**

Gettysburg is NOT the place for a casino. If there is one place in America that deserves our respect for the fallen, this is it. I have visited Gettysburg many times, and my son graduated from Gettysburg College...please preserve the town from gaming!

Name: **gloria thomke** State: **pa** County: **york** ID: **2258** RegID: **2465**

Casinos are NOT in the best interest of our citizens.

When my history teacher told me about this issue, I knew that I had to use Integrity and to show my opinion for this cause. I am 13 years old and I am in 8th grade.

I believe that the Casino would ruin the posterity and the history of Gettysburg. You have to understand that the point of Gettysburg is the historical aspect of it, I don't want to go to Gettysburg to go to a casino, I want to go because I want to see the history. Anything else like a casino would just distract me from my attention being put towards the historical town that is Gettysburg. The town is already famous for the Battle of Gettysburg and the Gettysburg Address. Please do not plague the town's reputation with gambling. After all, reputation is worth a million dollars.

I am opposed to a casino on the sacred ground of the Gettysburg Battlefield. Or a resort of any kind.
Thank you.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to go on record as supporting the Mason Dixon proposal in Cumberland Township, Adams County.

I know you want to put the casino where it will do the most good and bring the most money to the Commonwealth. This being the case, I don't think you have any choice but Mason Dixon.

Mason Dixon will not be competing with any of the other casinos already established in Pennsylvania, thus the money brought in by Mason Dixon will not be taken from another existing casino,

Adams County already has many hotels and motels to accommodate over night visitors that exceed the capacity of the existing facility, and we are used to having large numbers of visitors as a result of tourism, and other events and features that we offer every year.

Adams County also has other items and events that already draw people to the area, including seven golf courses, a ski resort, and as I said above, many local events that run every year, and with more each year.

Name: **keyne taylor**

State: **ri**

County: **providence**

ID: **2282**

RegID: **2490**

I have visited Gettysburg area many times. As a homeschooling mother, it has been a favorite destination to bring my family to see a very important time in our nation`s history, in a very special way. Gettysburg is a very special place! Bringing in a casino would ruin it!!! Please keep the casino out of Gettysburg!!

This is a wonderful historic location, so dear to the hearts of many on the East coast, that is visited by millions of families. It is totally contradictory that an entertainment center of this type be placed in this area.

Thank you.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I know you are carefully considering the location for the last Category 3 license to be awarded in Pennsylvania. I strongly support the Mason Dixon proposal to be located in Cumberland Township, Adams County.

This proposal will bring much needed jobs and economic development to Adams County. I see this proposal as something that can possibly bring more businesses to the area, and will help with our failing tourist industry.

Please when considering this location and those who oppose and support it, take the time to look at the location of these people. This issue is a local issue, and I hope you look at the desires of those who live, work, and pay taxes in Adams County, and not the impression of the many misinformed individuals from around the country who do not know the conditions here.

As you know this location is not located on the National Park, it can't be seen from the National Park, or any of the current tour routes.

As you know this issue is supported by over 60 % of the local population as per two polls of local people. The local Chamber of Commerce supports this along with over 200 businesses, mostly local. Two of the three County Commissioners support this issue as do the Cumberland Township Supervisors.

In conclusion, I request that you award this final license to Mason Dixon where the local community wants it, and where it will bring the most income to the Commonwealth through gaming.

Gettysburg is hallowed ground, no matter your beliefs. It is obscene to consider a casino near these fields. I would never attend or support such a place. There are many more places in PA to put such an establishment.

An experience most of us who live in and around Gettysburg have repeatedly had is for an out-of-state driver to pull over, roll down his window, and ask, "Where is the battlefield?"

Most of the time I can truthfully respond, "Right here!" But the look of befuddlement by the driver is evident, for most people are unaware of the broad expanse of this greatest battle. Rangers at the Visitor Center commonly explain that the actual battlefield is about 25 square miles, though just 6,500 acres are included in Gettysburg National Military Park itself.

Mason-Dixon Resorts proponents have argued that their proposed site is distant from the battlefield since it is a half mile from Gettysburg National Military Park. But the designated boundary of the park is administrative; it certainly does not encompass the battlefield. I teach school on the battlefield, I see my doctor on the battlefield, I eat out with my wife on the battlefield, I go to church on the battlefield, I read at the library on the battlefield, I have my vehicle serviced on the battlefield. I even sleep each night on the battlefield. Though there are no Civil War monuments in these places, they are nevertheless indisputably located where soldiers fought and gave their life blood.

As a public historian I have given over 1000 programs on and about Gettysburg. In the 50 years I have been grappling to understand this fight, my comprehension of it has continually been stretched. For a goodly number of folks, the battlefield is essentially Little Round Top or across the fields of Pickett's Charge. If and when the actual scope of the battle becomes evident to them, most are staggered. Gettysburg is in effect a battle of battles involving some 160,000 men under arms, with tens of thousands more in direct support. In no battle in which Americans have ever fought have there been more casualties. It is Hallowed Ground. One can hope it is ignorance, not deception, by which Mason-Dixon makes their assertions.

What did the soldiers who fought in the battle sector along the Emmitsburg Road beyond the supposed southern entrance to the battlefield tell us?

Colonel Logan Black, commanding the 1st South Carolina Cavalry, explained that his vital mission was to guard the right flank of Lee's army and "if I was attacked to hold my ground so long as possible." He had Hart's Battery to assist him in his mission at the Emmitsburg Road.

Brigadier General Wesley Merritt, commanding a brigade of Federal troopers, wrote that from Emmitsburg on the morning of July 3 they "marched on the Gettysburg road about 4 miles, where my advance and my skirmishers were engaged." That distance would have brought them to Marsh Creek, south of the present-day main entrance to the Eisenhower Hotel and Convention Center. Merritt's adjutant, Lieutenant Eugene Betrand, explained that they "encountered the enemy at 11 a.m." Private Isaac Dunkleburger of the 1st U.S. Cavalry said that was the time, an hour before noon, when "we became heavily engaged with the enemy, on both sides of the Emmitsburg Road."

Colonel Black deployed his Rebel cannons on the slope beyond the Kern homestead whereby they could fire with accurate range over the area now encompassed by the Eisenhower complex. His division commander commented how those guns were "well handled, and did good service."

Sergeant James Crockett of the 1st U.S. Cavalry said, regarding his thousand or so comrades, that they deployed "soon after crossing a narrow deep creek" (the road passes over Marsh Creek 2500 feet

south of the main entrance to the proposed casino). The troopers then “dismounted near a school house, in the woods to the left.” (The site of that school house is diagonally across from the north entrance; during my testimony I showed the board a photograph of it taken from the actual building intended to be used by Mason-Dixon for gaming.)

Having formed a line of battle on foot, Captain Frederick Newhall of the 6th Pennsylvania Cavalry described how his men then “drove” the gray-coated enemy, “the carbines and rifles rattling on both sides of the Pike.” Chaplain Samuel Gracey explained how the horses were led to the rear and the dismounted Federal troopers “went boldly over ground intersected by stone walls and fences.”

General Merritt, commanding the Union soldiers, proudly recalled how his men then “drove the enemy for more than a mile, routing him from strong places, stone fences, and barricades.”

The monuments up the road on Park property identify the far extent over which this assault was made, during which, as Sergeant Crockett proudly asserted, “we soon whipped their cavalry.” But the Rebels reinforced their defenses and finally halted the Union attack. The several monuments and the marker for troopers under Merritt do not indicate where they began to fight, but the far extent of their bloody battling during several hours up the road. At the site of the 6th Pennsylvania Cavalry Monument, upon the occasion of its dedication, Brevet-Colonel Frederic Newhall described how the fighting had begun “a mile or so from here” (that distance reaches to the present-day Eisenhower complex).

This particular action of the battle on the road by the site in issue is something rarely appreciated. Lieutenant Colonel William Doster expressed regrets that the operations “on this ground has... been almost entirely missed by commentators on Gettysburg.” But he further asserted that “at no part of the whole field of battle was such a small force of either side used more effectively.” (Not incidentally, the three regiments of dismounted Union horse soldiers under General Merritt who fought up the Emmitsburg Road on July 3 suffered a casualty rate nearly the same as General Buford’s other troopers did on July 1 in their famous and heroic action.)

Merritt’s troopers did not fight at Gettysburg with Buford, nor Reynolds, nor Hancock, nor Chamberlain, but it is demeaning to the memory of those soldiers to thus suppose that their action was not on the battlefield simply because many are ignorant of what they did and where they did it.

Charles Teague

I would be very upset if someone foolish enough would vote for a casino in Gettysburg. A casino adds no value to a town known for its history. Why would you bring a casino to a place where modern comforts aren't the top priority? The top priority is educating youngsters and adults alike about the world before we inhabited it, all 6 billion of us. We cannot forget the men who died for us, the ones that fought and were brave enough to risk something as precious as their life, just to protect others. That's what sets us apart as a country—the fact that we are willing to do whatever it takes to keep America going strong.

We can't let a casino distract us from the fact that Gettysburg is the place to have a "moment". It's a place to reflect and a place to let us remember our ancestors. No matter how hard Washington D.C. or the textbooks try, you can only feel like a part of what happened if you visit a place that is so well preserved. I am a part of what happened, and I am a part of America. We can't let Gettysburg turn into the same bland city we all can visit on our own time. Gettysburg is not a place for our modern pleasure. It is a place for historical reflections.

I hope that all of Gettysburg can rally together and realize that a casino is not going to benefit their hometown.

Sincerely,
Janine Karo

I oppose the casino because Gettysburg is one of the most well-preserved areas of history I have ever heard of. I feel this way because, as a student learning about American history, I feel that a casino is disruptive to a battlefield that so many of us hear about, but never see. A casino would not bring value to a town known for its history. Casinos are a modern-day convenience, and Gettysburg is not known for conveniences. It is known for its passion for the rich history that lies in the grasses where bloodstains once seeped into. As a 12 year old in 8th grade learning about the events that took place here, an overwhelming desire to question those who believe a casino is appropriate for this area overcomes me. My simplest question, one that only a child could conjure up is...why? Why would you ruin history? Who's going to be affected? What does this mean for those living in the proximity? The people didn't choose to live in Gettysburg because of the technological advances. Where does this casino go from here? Does the crazy idea spread to other historical sites? Soon the Washington Monument will be an area for people to drink booze and smoke! When are the people for the casino going to realize that these actions that they are creating today is going to affect the generation of tomorrow?

Tell me....when?

Tell me....why?

Tell me...how can you deal with yourselves, covered in the filth of your actions?

And so I will wonder.

Dear Sirs,

My name is Darlene Stone, an Adams county, Freedom township resident, only 1 mile from the Eisenhower Conference Center. I am writing to express my support of the proposed Mason – Dixon Casino.

In this time of 8% unemployment, thousands of mortgage foreclosures and the ever increasing property tax debacle, the casino offers a ray of light at the end of the tunnel.

The programs set forth by Mr. Levan and his administration of BUY ADAMS and HIRE ADAMS shows his respect for the community in which he lives and so generously supports. He is a man of his word, a man of honor.

I understand the opposition's concerns for the preservation of the sanctity of the Gettysburg Battlefield but the site that has been chosen for this venture is a standing facility that has been functioning as a hotel for almost 35 years. I foresee nothing but advantages to the upgrading of this property. I believe most of the opposition is related to the morality of gambling, which is an insignificant debate since it is a legal endeavor in our state.

I also strongly disagree that this is a national and world wide issue! Yes, if it were involving the Battlefield itself. This is private property! Our founding fathers would be turning in their graves to think that Property owners rights were be trampled upon by others.

The history of the battle of Gettysburg and the Civil War shall be sustained throughout eternity by the preservationists, historians, patriotic Americans and the proud citizens of Gettysburg itself.

Gettysburg will never change! History will never change!

Thank you, Darlene Stone

I am writing to urge the Commission to deny the licensing application of Mason-Dixon Resorts, LP. My reasons for opposing the licensing of this establishment are several, but one, I believe, is most significant. Gettysburg is no mere historic site; it is a shrine. The fact that the casino developers are proposing to locate their facility on a tract that is not directly adjacent to Gettysburg National Military Park is immaterial. If the casino were allowed to open, it would certainly be trading on Gettysburg's name, notwithstanding the developers' choice of a name that does not directly invoke Gettysburg. How, in the public's mind, could it ever fail to be anything other than the 'Gettysburg casino,' and how could the casino and casino culture ever be separated from Gettysburg's identity as a travel destination? I believe that the proposed Mason-Dixon casino is wholly inconsistent with Gettysburg's significance to our country, and for that reason I respectfully request that you deny the application of Mason-Dixon Resorts, LP.

Abraham Lincoln said it best in two minutes:

`We are met here on a great battlefield of the war. We have come to dedicate a portion of it as a final resting place for those who gave their lives that the nation might live.`

`This world will little note, or not long remember, what we say here, but can never forget what they did here`...

The president charged us with a task: ` that from the honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave their last full measure of devotion - that we resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; that this nation shall have a new birth of freedom and that this government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.`

52,000 people gave their last full measure of devotion. Our nation was saved on this ground from splitting in two forever. What kind of person could possibly consider building a Casino on such land? It is the equivalent of our great-grandchildren thinking its all right to build a Casino on the World Trade Center site (2,973 people) or on the Western Overlook in Shanksville. It is one thing to capitalize on the history of Gettysburg with legal businesses that support tourism, and quite another to capitalize on the death of 52,000 people with a gaming business so controversial that is only legal in 14 states.

Please vote against it now, or forever lose your right to defend their honor!

Wendy Erich

This would be a travesty to dishonor the fallen.

I am in the Sons of Union Veterans and a Past Commander of the Department of Missouri. I have absolutely no objection to the casino as I understand it is a good distance from the battlefield. If it were immediately adjacent to it, that might be a problem, but I also run a battlefield in Missouri and have a junk yard next to mine. I would rather have a casino and be able to hit them up for support of my battlefield than a junk yard that all I get to see is trash.

Please don`t gamble with Gettysburg`s future.

In my opinion, the inclusion of a casino, even if situated on the existing footprint, will cheapen and denigrate this most holy of places. Because the battle occurred more than 150 years ago does not lessen its importance to Americans. I feel that allowing the casino to be built where it is proposed is tantamount to putting one next to Ground Zero, or next to the Arizona memorial at Pearl Harbor. Put it someplace else!

I am deeply saddened by the short term desire for profits that will change the character of Gettysburg. My family lived in Shippensburg during the Confederate incursion, and were robbed of goods from their store and forced to drive a the wagon to enable the Rebels to haul the stuff away. The battle at Gettysburg not only saved the Union, it helped to save my family. This is intensely personal for all Americans. Once that damned buildign is there we will have lost something quite precious and irretreivable.

J.R. Reddig
CAPT, USN-Ret.

Name: **EDMUND D. LEWIS JR** State: **VA** County: **USA** ID: **2326** RegID: **2555**

i AM AGAINST THE CACINO IN GETTYSBURG AS IT WILL HURT THE HISTORICAL AREA

Name: **Chris Warren**

State: **VA**

County: **Fairfax**

ID: **2327**

RegID: **2549**

Oppose

I am against having a casino so near the national park.

Name: **Jay A. Schmitt** State: **Oh** County: **Lorain** ID: **2331** RegID: **2557**

This a desecration of hallowed ground that will forever change the ambiance of the Gettysburg battlefield and its surroundings. I strongly urge that this application be defeated.

No Casino at Gettysburg!

To the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board

Whereas, Gettysburg National Military Park is a shrine to those who fought and fell during that historic, three-day battle in July 1863 -- arguably the most important battle in American history;

Whereas, heritage tourism contributes significantly to the economic well-being of the Gettysburg community;

Whereas, a gambling casino 1/2 mile from the battlefield would alter the nature of the community, and adversely impact the experience of visitors who travel to Gettysburg to learn more about this singular time in our nation`s history, and its meaning;

We, the undersigned, strongly oppose any license to build a casino in or near Gettysburg, the site of this sacred Civil War battlefield.

Please vote `NO!` to the desecration of the hallowed ground where so many American soldiers valiantly fought and courageously died in a war that transformed our nation.

Please vote `No!` in support of protecting Gettysburg`s vibrant heritage tourism industry.

Please vote `No!` to the destruction of a national treasure enjoyed by thousands of Adams County residents and by more than one million annual visitors.

Michael & Dianne Bornia

Name: **t cutler** State: **md** County: **talbot** ID: **2333** RegID: **2558**

Please do not approve this casino, there are other locations available. There are already casino`s in Maryland and West Virginia which will provide gambling opportunities nearby.

I oppose any gaming facilities being near historic sites.

I love casinos. I was at Dover Downs just this past weekend. But I love my country and its history even more. Desecrating the memory of the thousands of brave Americans who marched, fought, and died on the battlefield at Gettysburg will be a humiliation and insult, not just to their memory, but to the history of this country itself.

I am astonished that anyone would consider doing such a thing, and that they cannot realize how this will change, not only the traffic patterns on roads that are already overused during the spring, summer, and fall, but how it will indubitably also bring a new class of visitor to Gettysburg -- people who have no interest in history whatsoever, and who are not likely to spend much money in town (save, perhaps, on beer).

Gettysburg is one of the most sacred places in this entire country. Is there no venue in the entire state, or even in Adams County, that would not be more in need of, and more appropriate for, a casino than this one? I hope so.

Please don't inflict this crass travesty upon the memories of those brave men, or upon those of us who actually come to Gettysburg for something other than the chance to win a jackpot.

As an professional educator, published historian, and and proud descendent of Civil War veterans, I am very much opposed to the idea of a casino located at Gettysburg. While some might argue that a casino would no more detract from the history of Gettysburg any more than the multitude of tourist-related businesses, hotels, and fast-food establishments, it is my firm belief that a line has to be drawn somewhere. Adding to the blight that already exists will only compound the problems. Furthermore, any arguments about increased jobs or revenues being directed toward the town and county must be carefully balanced against the cost that will be incurred. I believe a careful analysis, with strong emphasis placed on what other communities who have gone down the same path experienced, must be considered. Gettysburg does not merely belong to those who live there, but to the nation as a whole.

The Gettysburg battlefield and adjacent areas should not be the site of a gambling casino and/or associated resorts. Long known as `hallowed ground` this Civil War site should be held sacrosanct from any type of commercialization. In 1863 my relatives had a farm on land that became part of the battlefield: `Biesecker`s Woods.`

Please to do not insult the memory of the brave men who fought and died at Gettysburg by allowing a casino on that hallowed ground.

This is a historical sacred place. What a dishonor to our beloved soldiers to put up this casino in Gettysburg.

The motel built by the cemetery was disgrace enough and now this possibility? what are you thinking? Please do not let this happen.

Melinda S. Henson

Indiana

This is sacred ground, and not an area to be desecrated by those who wish to profit off the spilled blood of those who so noblely fought here. Gettysburg is hallowed ground, ground that should never be trodden by those who see it as simply a place to go to with dreams of making themselves rich in terms of money, but rather a spiritual place in which one goes to commune with the past and learn the lessons of the past., hoping to make things better for all in the future.

Name: **Skip Smith**

State: **NC**

County: **Caldwell**

ID: **2345**

RegID: **2567**

I simply do not understand how the county could even think about letting a casino be built near the battlefield...the only possible reason that I can come up with is GREED...surely there is a more suitable spot in Adams County to put this that will not interfere with the National Battlefield...

Name: **Marcia B.. Santiman** State: **PA** County: **Delaware** ID: **2347** RegID: **2564**

I strongly oppose the creation of a casino in Gettysburg, PA. This is a site consecrated by those who gave
`the last full measure of devotion,` not Disneyland.

I would like to express my opposition to building a casino in Gettysburg, PA. It would be a national travesty. Why risk tarnishing the Gettysburg Battlefield and the historic appeal of Adams County? Once its gone you can't bring it back.

To whom it May Concern,

As a native Pennsylvanian, graduate of Gettysburg College and a novice Civil War hobbyist, I am writing to indicate my **STRONG** opposition to any form of gaming near or adjacent to the town of Gettysburg.

As President Lincoln indicated in his Gettysburg address, the battlefield is a hallowed ground. Let`s honor the fallen at Gettysburg and limit the absurd notion of building any type of gaming facility. Since graduating from Gettysburg College in 1985, there has been tremendous commercial growth in the immediate Gettysburg area, including the fringes of the battlefield. Please, enough is enough.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Steven D. Parker - Gettysburg College graduate, 1985
Alexandria, Virginia

Name: **James E. Hall** State: **Oh** County: **Knox** ID: **2352** RegID: **2560**

GO AWAY and STAY AWAY!!

Name: **bret thiel** State: **pa** County: **montgomery** ID: **2353** RegID: **2575**

I feel putting a Casino will take away the focus and attention that is rightly deserved by those who fought and died there. It is disrespectful.

As a frequent visitor to Gettysburg I STRONGLY oppose granting ANY licence to this concern.

It will degrade the area, the spirit, and value of our heritage.

I will limit my future visits, and all future expenditure in the Gettysburg area, if this goes forward.

I wrote a check payable to the United States of America for up to and including my life in 1958 (USMC). The dead guys at Gettysburg did the same thing as I did, I missed the bullets, they didn't. You cannot desecrate their sacrifice for financial gain, it is neither noble or right. It is the same as the mosque at hollowed ground in NY, find another spot, you are stealing valor, how dare you.

Tourists will not spend their travel dollars on gambling. They have their own casinos at home. But they will spend it with on the small businesses in Gettysburg. The casino can be built somewhere else.
Tom Sokarda, 8Track Cruises & Escapes, Inc. Riverside, California

Name: **HOWARD m. SCHLOSS** State: **MD** County: **baltimore** ID: **2358** RegID:
2552

Stop trying to desecrate the memory of 25 thousand Americans who shed their blood at Gettysburg!!

Find another location!!

This action is akin to trying to build it at the World Trade Towers site!!

My great-grandfather, Daniel R. Hoover, was gravely wounded on July 3, 1863. The wound and the experience affected him for the rest of his life and impacted his immediate family for generations. It would be a travesty and a dishonor to him and the tens of thousands of others _ on both sides _ to allow a casino anywhere near the battlefield. Why not Pittsburg? Or Reading? Or Germantown?

Name: **Gerald J. Georgopolis** State: **NH** County: **Rockingham** ID: **2361** RegID:
2582

Please protect Gettysburg from this Resort. This area is `Hallow Ground`.

This is one of the most historically significant battlefields in all of the Western Hemisphere. Casino gambling in this area desecrates the sacrifice of all the fallen, and shows callous regard for the sacrifices of all veterans, from the Revolution up to the present.

Please do the right thing and oppose the casino.

Eamonn McGeady

US Army veteran

A casino at Gettysburg Pa. is just as bad today as was the earlier proposal. Gettysburg should be about honoring the past to inform the present. Its not a Las Vegas or a Disneyland. I take students to Gettysburg after they have participated in my Civil War class offerd by my high school. We spend 4 days each spring learning on and off the battlefield. They come away changed - not because of my teaching but because Gettysburg has the ability to transcend and to teach all on its own. Don` t spoil that. Save it for future generations WITHOUT a casino.

Name: **David L. Nelson** State: **Tx** County: **Jefferson** ID: **2368** RegID: **2588**

I am opposed to a gambling casino with a location near Gettysburg National Battleground.

Please ... No Casino at Gettysburg

Name: **John Williams** State: **IN** County: **St. Joseph** ID: **2371** RegID: **2596**

The Gettysburg Battlefield and the surrounding area needs to be preserved in respect to our heritage, our education, and to the importance to future generations of Americans.

Please, Please Please do not allow a casino near the Gettysburg! Why must we insult the brave patriots who gave there all to save the Union and free the slaves by building a gambling establishment anywhere near the battlefield where they fell. There are plenty of other locations in PA to put the casino. The visitors who go to see Gettysburg are not interested in gambling and the gamblers who will flood to Gettysburg are not interested in history. The whole area will be trashed over time by people who have no clue what Gettysburg is truly about.

The last thing historic Gettysburg needs is a non-historic gaming casino. What an abomination and utter disgrace to the memory of American fighting men, both Yankee and Rebel, to use this historic battlefield for attracting gambling customers.

The resorts company should be ashamed to put greed above heritage.

Name: **Timothy J. Koehn** State: **MS** County: **Jackson** ID: **2377** RegID: **2592**

Please do not ruin our national heritage by placing a casino in the vicinity of the Gettysburg National Battlefield.

I have been visiting the Gettysbury battlefield since I was a little girl. I was at the centennial celebration in 1963...my brother has participated in some of the re-enactments in the past 20 years, and my entire family continues to travel to the battlefield whenever we have the opportunity. Over the past several decades, we have seen the area grow more `touristy` (and believe me, I know `touristy`, because I live near Branson, MO). A lot of that tourism-based business is at least related to the battle, the battlefield, or Civil War history. But to build a casino very close to the hallowed ground of this battlefield is so very wrong - and it will bring in elements that will at the very least detract from the historic significance of the area. I strongly oppose the slots facility...there are casinos within easy traveling distance for those who want to gamble.

I strongly urge that no casino, or resort of any kind be built anywhere near an American historic landmark such as the Gettysburg Battlfield.

You have the entire state of Pennsylvania to pursue for a business location so why put such a commercial venture anywhere near such a sacred location where Americans, North and South , right or wrong, spilled their blood for what they believed.

The National Military park should remain true to its scenic surrounding.

NO CASINO

Name: **Stan Whitehorn** State: **MS** County: **Lafayette** ID: **2383** RegID: **2606**

I believe the casino near Gettysburg is a bad idea. I am from MS. and the casino at Vicksburg has been a detriment to that park ever since its introduction. Gettysburg would likely be the same. Some where else please.

There are a number of other places for this casino that people go to for pleasure. We go to Gettysburg for the History and to preserve the memory of those who died there. And also to preserve the battlefield and all that entails. My great-grandfather fought there and we visit all the time. It never fails to fill our minds as to what happened there. No casino belongs here ever. Thank You

People go to Gettysburg for it`s history, not to gamble!! It would be a disgrace to allow a casino and resort on this hallowed ground. We need to honor those who fought to preserve our country by preserving the land they fought on so future generations can learn, understand, and see where history was made. The addition of a resort and casino will do the exact opposite. The land, terrain, and sense of history will be destroyed. Gettysburg has worked so hard to preserve it`s history. Once you open the door and allow non-historical businesses like a casino in, the flood gates will open and other unsavory business will follow. Casinos will bring crime. Crime rates historically increase in towns once a casino opens. This IS NOT what Gettysburg wants or needs! Say NO to a CASINO!!!

I strongly oppose the building of a casino and resort on lands so close to the Gettysburg battlefield. I believe that it would be a kind of sacrilege to build such a facility at a place with such high significance to our country. A casino at this place would be a dishonor to those who fought, bled and died here during the Civil War, the most significant event in American history. Surely Pennsylvania can find another place for a casino and resort.

Please do not desecrate the environs of the Gettysburg battlefield with a casino.

the same as before

Name: **John R. Kelley** State: **NY** County: **Dutchess** ID: **2392** RegID: **2612**

Please do not support a Casino next to the Gettysburg Battlefield where there were more than 50,000 casualties in three days of fighting.

From Indiana comes a battle cry of freedom from casinos!
I have been to Gettysburg but once and I have great reverence for it and all battlefields.

Name: **James D. Anderson** State: **VA** County: **Loudoun** ID: **2397** RegID: **2616**

A gambling facility near Gettysburg NMP was a bad idea last time and this time it is even worse. The negative impact on family tourism to a national shrine will be terrible. Preserve our heritage! Thank you

I am absolutely opposed to the building of a casino so close to the site of the most hallowed battlefield cemetery in our country`s history. Nothing , short of an amusement park on the grounds themselves, could be more intrusive and disrespectful to the honored dead, their descendants, and our nation`s history. Please do not allow this travesty to take place.

John P. Fowler
Bakersfield, CA

Name: **Paul Sikoris** State: **PA** County: **Bucks** ID: **2400** RegID: **2617**

I AM TOTALLY OPPOSED TO A CASINO SO CLOSE TO A NATIONAL bATTLEFIELD

On July 3rd, 1863, the 11th Mississippi Volunteer Infantry assaulted Cemetery Ridge. In that group was Company A, known as The University Grays, mostly from The University of Mississippi. Company A suffered 100% casualties in the assault. (Killed, wounded or captured) It seems to me that that sacrifice, along with all of the others on both sides, should be remembered with reverence. Somehow, a casino doesn't seem to fit that description!

Name: **Mark K. Christ**

State: **AR**

County: **Pulaski**

ID: **2403**

RegID: **2626**

I oppose the casino at Gettysburg.

I certainly do not have to explain to this distinguished group that the National Park at Gettysburg holds a absolutely singular, unique place in this country (indeed, the world) that cannot be duplicated anywhere else. A casino, on the other hand may be located in numerous other locations with little, if any, inconvenience to its sponsors or potential customers.

I, and many of my friends, have visited Gettysburg on a regular basis to view and walk the actual land where such an epic event occurred. To place this proposed casino so close to this `hallowed ground` would be a grievous mistake. As our ancestors protected this sacred ground for us, it is incumbent upon us to protect the park for future generations. Thank you.

My son came home from Afghanistan a year ago with severe wounds. Yet, on his return, he was accorded honor for his service. We dishonor those who fought at Gettysburg, no matter the color of their uniform, by trying to establish a casino for questionable profit so near hallowed ground. Please rethink your position.

Gettysburg is a unique heritage site. In my opinion this development is too close to this site & it has the potential to seriously damage the ambience of the battlefield. It is not appropriate to have this development so close. This is a national shrine. A casino should not be here.

Name: **Thomas and Candace Nichols** State: **FL** County: **Manatee** ID: **2410** RegID:
2607

Leave Gettysburg as is. It would be a desecration of the area to put a Casino even near sacred ground!

Our American heritage is more important than a transient gambling enterprise.

No gambling in Gettysburg!

I strongly oppose the construction of a casino so close to the historic Gettysburg site. Commercial interests must not be allowed to intrude on the sanctity of this place, one of the most historic sites in our nation.

The Gettysburg Battlefield is sacred and hallowed ground for the fallen on both sides. The battle did not occur on just one or two acres, but truly impacted the surrounding citizens and countryside. This site cannot be viewed as an `off-to-the-side` place to go visit. It is a site to be preserved for many generations to have the opportunity to come and stand on the fields and listen to the wind blow around the monuments erected to the gallant men who sacrificed and died for principles. If we should lose the sanctity of this site - even for a moment in time, it will be lost forever. Please show the world that this country is capable of preserving and honoring with respect its history. Thank you for your consideration.

I visit Gettysburg National Park four or five times a year and had an ancestor killed in the battle and two others present. Those men fought and died for this country and I feel it is inappropriate to allow for a casino so close to the hallowed ground that is a national treasure. Casinos can be built elsewhere--NOT HERE!

Put Casino in Hanover. Not Gettysburg.

Don't Gamble with Gettysburg's Future. We don't need slots in Gettysburg. This will not bring the higher paying jobs that Gettysburg really needs. It will only bring a handful of jobs to a limited number of people. Let's be realistic here and support history not the casino.

Please do not allow this casina to be built.The battlefield at Gettysburg is sacrd ground. Having a casino near the battlefield would seriously detract from the historical benefits of the battlefield and mar the future generations ability to appreciate and understand our nations shared history. The benefit of a casino would be primarily for it`s operators, who surely can find a different site. If a casino is built, we will lose some of important Civil War History , which we can not recover. The building of the casino (at this site) would be an insult to our collective historical memory, and all those soldiers fought and died there.

Name: **Ed Andrews**

State: **Md**

County: **Washington**

ID: **2431**

RegID: **2611**

We have lost so much our of heritage to developers and overuse of our land for commercial greed(that our economy cannot support nor sustain for any length of time.) Now is the time to stand up and preserve our heritage and show respect for our forefathers who fought so gallantly and died for for our country`s future. Please vote to deny Mason-Dixon Resorts their application. Maybe they will find a less intrusive area to develop their casino.

Squandering our nation history on the rationalization of some limited term economic gains and particularly with such hallowed ground is a terrible thought to consider and truly a disservice to future generations. We have so many lessons still to be learned from this site and to construct something as distracting as a casino on the edges of the property discounts the sacrifices made and that in itself is obscene to me.

Name: **Robert Marshall** State: **KY** County: **Jefferson** ID: **2435** RegID: **2648**

It`s beyond belief that the state that I was born in would even CONSIDER something like this! THIS IS SACRED, HALLOWED ground to the HISTORY OF OUR ENTIRE NATION! There are enough of these pathetic casinos already.

Name: **Frances B. Goddard** State: **VA** County: **Culpeper** ID: **2439** RegID: **2641**

The idea of a casino near the spot where our country`s future as a union of all the states was decided is unwise in the utmost. PLEASE do not do this!

Gettysburg and its surrounding environs are hallowed ground. To honor those who fought July 1 - 3, 1863 and to preserve the dignity of this area for future generations, a permit for a casino must be denied. Any short-term gain in local employment or tax revenue is overshadowed by the inappropriateness of a gambling casino that will taint the area for decades to come. The men who fought and died at Gettysburg deserve nothing less than a rejection of this proposal by Mason Dixon Resorts.

Name: **Mark B. Pohlad** State: **IL** County: **Cook** ID: **2442** RegID: **2652**

Please preserve the spirit of this place untainted by commercial concerns. Its the holiest ground in America.

Construction of a gaming casino in proximity to the sacred soil of Gettysburg` Battlefield is a terrible proposal. It will threaten, not enhance, the local tourism economy, and will keep families away from this national treasure. I will never set foot in Gettysburg if a casino, with all its societal evils, was built. The brave soldiers who spilled precious blood in Gettysburg will roll over in their graves if this proposal is approved. This application is the applicant`s second bite at the apple. Enough is enough. Just say no to the applicant.

This is a very special area and should be preserved. There are many lessons to be learned here. The proposal would only distract and defeat that purpose.

Name: **Jesse M. Berrong III, Command Sergeant Major USA (R)** State: **MD** County: **Anne**
Arundel ID: **2451** RegID: **2650**

The fields and streets of Gettysburg are as hallowed as the Fileds of Arlington. It took America a long period of time to understand this. With the National Parks Service on the way to trying to make the terrain resemble, as close as possible, Jul 1-3 in 1863. I am sure that if a Slots facility was proposed as being w/i 5 miles of Arlington National Cemetary - you would hear one heck of an uproar---the same should be said for Gettysburg. Have your slots, but not on hallowed grounds.

The construction of a gambling casino on the site of one of the greatest battles on American soil would be a travesty. The history of our country is tied to the battle that took place at this site. A gambling casino does not enhance the experience of visiting this site; it only detracts and will ruin the experience of the millions of visitors.

It is a travesty to plave a gambling casino in proximity to the Gettysburg Battlefield. This is a sacred national monument and should be shown proper respect

The proposed casino **MUST NOT** and **CAN NOT** be erected on the site of most hallowed ground, the Battlefields at Gettysburg. The site of the Battle that preserved this great country. I cannot understand why the Mason-Dixon Resorts LP could even **CONTEMPLATE** the desecration of any section of the battlefield and the surrounding land. I can only think of **ONE** reason - money and greed. This proposal **MUST** be stopped **NOW!**

The proposed site is too close to historic and sacred Civil War battlegrounds.
The local roads cannot and will not be able to handle the projected traffic during peak vacation weeks.
If a casino must be built in the area, it should be at least five miles from the national battle park and as near to a interstate highway as possible.

I strongly oppose the proposed Gettysburg casino. Further encroachment upon this hallowed ground is unconscionable. Please, do the right thing and say NO.

Thank you,
Kristina Austin Scarcelli
Great Great Granddaughter of Abner Delos Austin
Private, 24th Michigan Volunteer Infantry
Wounded at Gettysburg on July 1, 1863 at age 17

Name: **John Maass** State: **VA** County: **Fairfax** ID: **2462** RegID: **2667**

Please don't put a casino near Getysburg--it is one of a kind, a casino can go elsewhere.

Name: **Linda Snook** State: **PA** County: **Union** ID: **2464** RegID: **2663**

I cannot truly believe that anyone who claims to have the best interests of the borough of Gettysburg at heart would entertain the idea of desecrating the ground in or around Gettysburg. I have been an historian all my life and a Civil War Living Historian for ten years. Please do not pursue the casino on the battlefield.

The proximity of this project to the national treasure that is the Gettysburg Battlefield, prompts me to speak out in opposition to this proposal. I have only been to the area once, and may only return a handful of times in my lifetime, but I believe that place to be sacred and integral to understanding our nation's past, present, and future.

All future Americans should have the opportunity to explore Little Round Top, Devils Den, and the Emmitsburg Road without the disturbance of a major casino within a half mile and in the viewshed.

If this resort means to build in the area it should do so further out of the battlefields footprint. I take no issue with this form of resort and don't wish to affect jobs it may bring, but this location is wholly inappropriate in my opinion. Best wishes to all on a difficult decision process.

Regards,

Thomas Herbert

The US economy needs a shot in the arm. Casinos can provide such a shot, but not at Gettysburg. This is not a place for casinos. It will ruin the atmosphere I have when I visit the Battlefield. This is HALLOWED GROUND. Casinos do not belong here.

People visit Gettysburg for the historic value, not to gamble.

Gettysburg is among the most hallowed ground in our country. I oppose debasing it and dishonoring the memory of our valiant dead with a gambling facility.

How can you think of putting such a thing in that area. Put it somewhere else, anywhere but there. Can you imagine if all the dead soldiers could come back and see what they gave their lives for!!! A

GAMBLING MECCA?????????

Shame on anyone who supports such a thing. After vititing
Gettysburg a few times, this proposal **MAKES MY BLOOD BOIL.**

V. Pucci

I am not a Pennsylvania resident, but I have visited the Gettysburg battlefield four times and consider it one of the most important historical sites in America.

Siting a casino adjacent to the Gettysburg battlefield is a terrible idea. It would dishonor the thousands of brave soldiers who fought and died there, making a mockery of Lincoln`s own words -- that the world would never forget what they did here.

A casino at Gettysburg? If it comes to pass, then the world truly has forgotten what those men did there. Preservation of the Gettysburg battlefield, AND its environs, from crass commercial interests is of the highest importance.

I urge you to deny development approval for this casino. Approving it would bring shame on all those involved.

Name: **Greta Ratliff** State: **KY** County: **Jefferson** ID: **2475** RegID: **2679**

It would be a VERY sad day if this is what the State of PA would do with it`s sacred land!

The hallowed ground of Gettysburg would be forever tarnished with the development of a casino on one of our nation`s most historic landscapes. As a native of Pennsylvania, I am saddened to think Pennsylvanians would seriously consider such as thought. I urge the Gaming Control Board to put a halt to the greedy efforts to bild this casino. Thank you!

With all the land in this country that is not near a sacred battlefield. How can you even think of wanting to place a casino near one of the countries most Hallowed Grounds ?

This is sacred ground not for making a buck. The blood of our forefathers was spilled here to preserve our union.. There are other places that you can build at. Leave Gettysburg alone. Come on up to central Maine around the state capital . Yes we are looking for jobs up here. A casino in the central part of the state would be a blessing. There is plenty of land up here and plenty of people who want to work.

I am against casinos because they ruin the special significance of this historical location.

As a history teacher I feel it is vital to future generations to maintain the pristine condition of Gettysburg and its surrounding areas.

Name: **Peter J. Magielnicki** State: **VA** County: **US** ID: **2483** RegID: **2681**

please do not have a casino near the gettysburg battlefield! We do not have a civil war national monument in Washington DC so the battlefield IS OUR MONUMENT! please preserve the site for future generations to visit and enjoy

Name: **Albert H. Gengnagel**

State: **IN**

County: **DeKalb**

ID: **2485**

RegID: **2687**

This is our country`s hallowed ground and should be perserved for future generations!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Gaming casinos do not belong next to national treasures such as the Gettysburg Battlefield. If the county residents feel there is a place for a casino - move it further away!

I am a ten year retiree from the US House, and have helped establish the Civil War Preservation Trust to save America`s threatened battlefields. I am heir to two Great Grandfthers who fought at Gettysburg, one who lead the NC 37th Regiment on the first day after it`s leader was disabled and later in Pickett`s Charge where he lost one eye. The other was in the 15th Alabama that took Big Round Top and wore themselves out later in the day attacking Little Round Top on the second day. Gettysberg should preserve the environment that gave rise the this most significant battle in our history.

What would Abraham say about a casino to bemuse useless self- indulgence in this sacred place?

No Casino at Gettysburg!

To the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board: [Decision Maker],

Whereas, Gettysburg National Military Park is a shrine to those who fought and fell during that historic, three-day battle in July 1863 -- arguably the most important battle in American history;

Whereas, heritage tourism contributes significantly to the economic well-being of the Gettysburg community;

Whereas, a gambling casino 1/2 mile from the battlefield would alter the nature of the community, and adversely impact the experience of visitors who travel to Gettysburg to learn more about this singular time in our nation's history, and its meaning;

We, the undersigned, strongly oppose any license to build a casino in or near Gettysburg, the site of this sacred Civil War battlefield.

Please vote `NO!` to the desecration of the hallowed ground where so many American soldiers valiantly fought and courageously died in a war that transformed our nation.

Please vote `No!` in support of protecting Gettysburg's vibrant heritage tourism industry.

Please vote `No!` to the destruction of a national treasure enjoyed by thousands of Adams County residents and by more than one million annual visitors.

Respectfully submitted by:

Greg Cocco

112 Quail Run Road

Lower Burrell, Pa. 15068

I condemn the absurd idea of a Gettysburg casino.

This casino would dishonor the brave Americans who fought on what is now truly hallowed ground. There are a plethora of other locations this casino can be placed so the Commission would be well served to protect our history and heritage from this banal enterprise.

Name: **Mary Houser** State: **ny** County: **ontario** ID: **2495** RegID: **2693**

Gettysburg is not place for a casino. The continuous statements made that this facility will be good for the economic growth in the area is bogus. Keep the area historicaly free of a gambling enviornment.

I am against a casino being allowed anywhere in or near Gettysburg, PA. This is sacred ground.

My great great grandfather James Ely Magill fought for the Union in Penna.`s 128th Regiment.

There are many casinos around our state and in neighboring states. There`s only one Gettysburg National Battlefield in the whole world.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Waddell Wellman

this casino will negatively impact the Gettysburg Battlefield area

I do not support a casino in the Gettysburg area. It would be an dedregation to the history of the battle and the men who fought and died there.

Name: **Barbara J. Raup** State: **Pa** County: **Lycoming** ID: **2501** RegID: **2705**

Gettysburg is NOT the place for a casino!!!!

Name: **Wayne J. Peterson** State: **CA** County: **Santa Clara** ID: **2502** RegID: **2706**

The very thought of a casino in the proposed location dishonors not only those who fell at Gettysburg, but all who have served in the military. Please find another location and leave this ground as it is today.

Name: **anthony cavallaro** State: **ny** County: **suffolk** ID: **2505** RegID: **2708**

I oppose the building of a casino in the vicinity of the Gettysburg battlefield.

This sacred ground is part of our American heritage, both north and south. At a time the nation needs to come together to solve our problems, why despoil this place? Put patriotism over the almighty dollar.

There are times when progress should not disturb sacred ground! This is one of those times!!!

Sacred battlefields, or anywhere nearby, are no place for gaming enterprises. The Gettysburg battlefield represents the aspirations of generations of Americans past and future. Proposals for for-profit activities, such as gaming enterprises, are unsuitable for placement near to the battlefield and its supporting environs, and are unpatriotic in the extreme.

Although I oppose the slots facility at this location due to the historical significance of the ground in and around Gettysburg and Adams County, I will defer from repeating statements that have already been made by citizens and groups far more eloquent than I. I will address, however, the economic theory forwarded by the proponents of this project. Having spent 15 years as a local and regional economic development practitioner in both public and private ventures, and, having a Master`s Degree in Economic Development, I have experience that enables me to discern the validity of revenue generation claims made by Mason-Dixon Resorts. Basically, a local economy will find its best growth and increased standard of living by locating facilities that pay high-end wages. This is primarily accomplished through manufacturing (where goods are actually created and exported) via skilled and semi-skilled workers. Professional services, high-end government work and technology-related industry - among others - can also provide real growth in wages and an increase in the local standard of living. Service industries are considered ancillary because they do not create anything, but take existing dollars and redistribute them in the local economy or the revenue is removed without ever contributing to the local tax base and/or economy. A gaming resort, in particular, is a poor choice because not only is the revenue a pass through operation, but the wages paid are largely at or very near minimum subsistence wages. Further, the employees do not have the opportunity to be trained to advance and make more in income because there are no jobs like that to fill. Adams County - and Pennsylvania - would do well to work harder to bring in facilities that create wealth. Although economic development is a competitive environment, it is even more difficult for Adams County and Gettysburg due to the size/presence of the National Park Service (federal). The Commonwealth should try even harder to provide solid wage earning jobs for local residents. Having said all of this, if the Gaming Commission and the Commonwealth is committed to granting one more license for a slots facility, it would be far better to place it in a location that is truly in economic hardship. Adams County and Gettysburg have a thriving heritage tourist trade based on the national and international draw of the Gettysburg battlefield. Other communities do not have that luxury. And while the economy of the last two years has been difficult on all state and local economies, Adams County has weathered better than many. Consequently, the location of a slots facility makes more sense at another location (if necessary at all). I urge the Gaming Commission to either award the final license to another location or not award one at all.

I believe the Gettysburg area should be maintained as a memorial to those who fought for freedom in the Civil War. A casino would be distrating to those who come to visit and learn more about the history of our country.

I am against any type of commercial establishment on any of our sacred, hallowed sites, especially those that designate the ultimate sacrifice on both sides of the Civil War. Please do not allow this project to continue. Surely there are other areas for this type of development.

Name: **Gregory K. Frick** State: **Mo** County: **Morgan** ID: **2518** RegID: **2718**

Gettysburg and its surrounding territory is a treasure for all Americans. A casino will detract from the Gettysburg experience. Put it elsewhere.

We should not allow this to happen. It would allow desecration of hallowed ground. Why cannot they build elsewhere? Why allow them to ruin my visits?

If Dwight Eisenhower were still living, I can guarantee you this would not even have been proposed. Do not desecrate sacred ground this way. This would not be an addition of infrastructure to support those who come to see the battlefiled. It would be something that detracts from it, both monetarily and psychologically.

Expansion of gaming interests near the Gettysburg NMP, Historic District is not appropriate. Additionally, the proposed casino would make it very difficult to control high-density development contiguous to the three main US 15 exits to Gettysburg.

I hope someone on the committee is actually reading this written comment. First of all, let me state that I have no objection to gambling. But I am unalterably opposed to placing a casino in such close proximity to the hallowed ground of Gettysburg. This area is a history classroom for everyone, especially children, and should not be cheapened by gambling. Yes, gambling provides jobs, etc. but this particular casino could easily be built in upstate Pa. near a mega-mall or even in a sparsely populated area where jobs are sorely needed. But please, anywhere but Gettysburg! I am sure you have received these same comments from all across the country. Gettysburg really belongs to the entire country, not just to Pa. How can anyone even consider building something--anything!--on ground soaked with American blood? And when it comes to values, I must remind you that some things are beyond price. Would Virginia allow a casino adjacent to Arlington National Cemetery? So why would you allow a casino at this National Cemetery? I strongly urge you to re-think this matter. After all--and I must remind you of this too--the people all across the country spoke loudly and clearly on this same issue just a few years ago - and the answer is still NO! Get the message once and for all. Show your respect for Gettysburg and what it represents. And one last thought--let us hope that this is the very last time we have to say NO GAMBLING IN GETTYSBURG!

My family and I from Iowa spend about 5 days a year in Gettysburg touring the battlefield. We stay in a motel and eat in local restaurants. Our expenditures total about \$1,000 each year with our visits. We also donate each year for preservation of the battlefield.

The gambling facility site proposed is inappropriate. Its activities are clearly incompatible being so close to the battlefield in our view and the traffic would be too much. Please reject the application. There are other sites that would be better for everyone.

Name: **Scott Bennett** State: **MD** County: **Calvert** ID: **2527** RegID: **2727**

I oppose the casino in Gettysburg.

Please, don`'t build a casino near the battle field. Just wonder what the public out cry would be if one was being considered at Pearl Harbor or the World trade center.

I opose the casiono at Gettysburg.

Name: **John R. Rush** State: **FL** County: **Escambia** ID: **2531** RegID: **2723**

Please do not allow this project to go forward. I cannot conceive a situation where this project would be appropriate in the location that in reality belongs to the entire country. I do not support this in any form!

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely, John R. Rush

Name: **Jeff Richman** State: **NY** County: **Suffolk** ID: **2532** RegID: **2735**

I oppose the granting of this license. Gettysburg is a mecca for tourist dollars--tourists who want to visit the battlefield. There is only one Gettysburg. There are many other places to put casinos.

Name: **Stan Shank** State: **KS** County: **Johnson** ID: **2533** RegID: **2734**

Please don't allow casino gambling in Gettysburg. My tourism dollars will go elsewhere if this happens.

Gettysburg Battlefield is foundational to understanding what sacrifice for freedom means. It would demean the sacred trust that we have as a nation to allow the venue to be overtaken by any commercial endeavor, let alone one that addresses no redeeming social value.

I am not opposed to gambling, but am unalterably opposed to the planned location of this one, so close to the Gettysburg Battlefield Park. Gettysburg is hallowed ground where our ancestors bled and died and where families today visit to honor their sacrifices and learn about our history. Locating a gambling casino so close to the Gettysburg battlefield would be a desecration of this national shrine and would damage if not destroy the family-friendly atmosphere that currently exists in Gettysburg. Also, the financial and jobs projections Mason-Dixon Resorts have fabricated to sell their proposal are obviously bogus and this venue, if allowed, would be a financial and jobs failure . There are far more appropriate and potentially lucrative locations in the State of Pennsylvania for a gambling casino than this proposal at Gettysburg.

I urge you to halt the encroachment on this sacred battlefield that the proposed casino represents. There are many other locations where a casino may be suitable, but the proposed location is too close to the historic ground that has been so carefully preserved. As a Country and a People we must be more dilligent about preserving our own historic record. The Gettysburg Battlefield is undoubtedly one of the most historically significant pieces of ground in our entire Nation. Please defeat this casino proposal in the name of all who fought and died here, and in the name of untold generations of Americans who can learn and benefit from the Battlefield Park and its historic surroundings. Thank you for your careful consideration.

Name: **George N. Vourlojianis** State: **OH** County: **Lorain** ID: **2539** RegID: **2742**

I am opposed to turning the Gettysburg Battlefield site into a theme park and gambling resort.

Name: **William A. Carter**

State: **CO**

County: **Denver**

ID: **2543**

RegID: **2740**

Please do not put a casino near/in Gettysburg.

Name: **Greg L. Stottlemyer**

State: **MD**

County: **Calvert**

ID: **2544**

RegID: **2744**

I grew up in the Gettysburg area and feel that any near term economic benefit of a gambling operation would diminish the setting for the Civil war's most important battle. Over the long haul- the commercial clutter will impact the attraction of Gettysburg.

Please don't build a casino where so many men fought and died. The atmosphere should be one of reflection and historic preservation so that nothing like this ever happens again. I enjoy casinos and gambling but a casino near Gettysburg is just wrong and desecrates our country.

Keep historic Gettysburg and the memory of the thousands of solidiers who died there for our country dedicated as a monument to their sacrifice. Let`s not make it a testimony to capitalism and our increasingly pursuit of corporate profits by allowing instututions like gaming, gambling and high rise resorts to take away from our heritage.

Name: **Lawrence Clemens** State: **MD** County: **Prince Georges** ID: **2549** RegID:
2760

I would prefer to be taxed rather than see the Gettysburg area turned into a `gaming` attraction. If the state of Pennsylvania needs gambling as income, I respectfully suggest that there are many other townships/counties in the great state that can be used. Why muck-up a hallowed and historic attraction with some sort of embarrassing gambling parlor!

To Whom It May Concern:

My son and I spent this past weekend retracing the steps of my Great-Great Grandfather`s regiment, 119 PA Volunteers and the 153 Regiment PA Volunteers of Northampton county. My son remarked that he had never seen a place like this and indeed there is no other place like this.

On my many trips to the battlefield I have seen people sobbing with emotion. This is America`s Ground Zero.

Gettysburg National Park and Battleground is hallowed ground. That a gaming facility should be built ANYWHERE around or near it, is shameful. The Civil War was a sad conflict for our country; where our men died, whether Union or Confederate, thousands upon thousands of them. These Civil War Battlegrounds deserve to be protected from encroaching development of any kind; they deserve the respect of everyone. Please do not allow any kind of gaming facility in the Gettysburg area. Thank you,
Sarah Atwell Williams

Name: **nick applegren** State: **sc** County: **greenville** ID: **2555** RegID: **2772**

Don` t Gamble with Gettysburg`s Future

Name: **Rob Haley** State: **PA** County: **Delaware** ID: **2559** RegID: **2767**

I oppose the slots facility. Gettysburg is one of the most important locations for those of all ages to learn a crucial part of our nation`s history. A casino/slots facility would detract from that.

please leave this sacred ground sacred do not place a casino here

I do not support the Casino near Gettysburg

Name: **Christopher J. Earle** State: **CT** County: **Middlesex** ID: **2564** RegID: **2766**

I am totally against a gambling establishment being situated anywhere near the Gettysburg Battlefield. This national treasure, which is sacred ground to all Americans, should be kept sacrosanct for the education of our succeeding generations. I encourage denial of this project.

A ridiculous idea all around. I am not opposed to casinos at all but a better place must be found.

Name: **Timothy Krugman** State: **OH** County: **Lorain** ID: **2569** RegID: **2778**

I am in opposition to the location of this facility so close to the hallowed ground of one our nations most important battlefields!

Dear Board Members, As a longtime visitor to the Gettysburg Battlefield and Adams County, I respectfully petition the Board to deny any form of gaming license to Mason-Dixon Resorts, LP. The historic nature of the area is much too delicate to exist in an environment that includes any gaming activities of this nature.

Respectfully yours,

Donald C. Moody
Nashport, Ohio

Name: **childs f. burden**

State: **va**

County: **loudoun**

ID: **2575**

RegID: **2785**

I am opposed to this location for the casino. There are so many other sites outside of the Gettysburg area that can support a gambling resort - not here in such a sacred and such a nationally important historic site. Please vote `NO`!

I feel the this unit is being to close to the Gettysburg Battlefield. Between private groups and the Federal government they have tried to restore the Battlefield back to the way it was in 1863. This is a step backward in the overall plan for the Gettysburg Battlefield.

Wayne Carver

I have been there and love the place.

Gambling will take your town down and destroy what Gettysburg is really all about those that fought and died there. I strongly oppose this casino propossal.

As a recent visitor to Gettysburg, I visited the location of the proposed casino and felt it is too close to the southern portion of the battlefield. As a resident of Indiana and strongly familiar with casinos within our state, I am not opposed to casinos that are appropriately situated--THIS IS NOT ONE OF THEM. Please do not capitalize (some might argue prostitute) on the main reason people visit Gettysburg.

Hasn't the trade in Ghost Tours already tainted the hallow ground of the town. With so many spiritual hauntings, the message is already being proclaimed that a tremendous number of the battle-killed have not rested in peace. Commercial enterprises like this have greatly detracted from the reverence of human sacrifice & the significance of a Lutheran Seminary being the scene for some of the battle. What will be the impact of gambling on the other college in the town? Isn't it bad enough that students have to resist drinking & drug addiction during their schooling - now there is a possibility of gambling problems occurring.

The Battle of Gettysburg was one of the most iconic moments in American history. Today the battlefield where thousands of Americans lost their lives is well-preserved by the National Park Service, and has been visited by millions of people who come to honor the fallen and to learn about the battle that was the turning point of the Civil War. The area at this time is focused on this very important battlefield, and devoted to the education of those who visit it and to the history of our country.

The placement of a gambling casino near this historic site would inevitably alter the nature of the area, and the experience of those who visit the battlefield. There are many places where a casino would not be out of place, but Gettysburg is not one of them. I urge you to please vote `no` on this issue, and to encourage the developers to find another location better suited to their business.

Name: **jim h. shumaker** State: **ms** County: **jones** ID: **2583** RegID: **2790**

do not violate holy hollowed ground

I oppose a casino being located anywhere near the Gettysburg Battlefield. My gr.-gr. uncle Lt. Rufus W. Skeels fought there with the 3rd Michigan Volunteer Infantry and idea that the corruption that casinos bring to an area being anywhere near this sacred battlefield is repugnant to those who hold this ground sacred to the memory of those who fought there.

Very recently my wife and I visited the Gettysburg Battlefield for the fifth time. My daughters are now grown and in college, so they missed the opportunity to make their third visit. We usually prefer to visit during the fall, when crowds are smaller and the pace less hectic.

This will all change, however, if you approve the application to place a casino at the edge of the battlefield. Crowds -- not necessarily interested in the historic and human events of the battlefield -- will choke already-crowded roads and the town. The din of noise will hover constantly across the fields.

I'm certain that, forty years ago, a similar debate raged over construction of the Gettysburg National Tower. Then, short-term economic gain triumphed over historic preservation. But the benefits proved short-lived. Do we never learn? Must we repeat the same mistakes again?

I do not know when I will pass that way again. However, I will be less likely to do so if the hallowed ground, which so many paid so much to consecrate, is despoiled.

This was our first trip since construction of the new, very impressive visitor's center. On leaving the building during the first day of our visit, knowing of the controversy surrounding the casino, I was struck by the irony in the statement of Joshua Chamberlain, painted on the visitor's center wall:

`In great deeds something abides. On great fields something stays. Forms change and pass; bodies disappear, but spirits linger, to consecrate ground for the vision-place of souls. And reverent men and women from afar, and generations that know us not and that we know not of, heart-drawn to see where and by whom great things were suffered and done for them, shall come to this deathless field to ponder and dream; And lo! the shadow of a mighty presence shall wrap them in its bosom, and the power of the vision pass into their souls.`

There are many other places to locate a casino. Please look beyond the transient monetary gain to see the greater value that is lost by failing to protect the battlefield. Please vote `NO` on the casino. Thank you.

A casino at Gettysburg would be nothing less than a desecration of hallowed ground. Arlington, Va is the site of a national cemetery also. Why not consider that as a likely site? Surely there are other places that would be more suitable.

A historian once said that those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it. We have already mortgaged or outright sold much of the nation`s history. I say it must stop somewhere.

Although not a resident of Pennsylvania, I live in Virginia only a short drive away from historic Gettysburg battlefield. I occasionally take house guests to visit Gettysburg, and my Scout Troop visits at least every other year.

I have no moral objection to gambling, but believe that casinos often do not deliver the desired, and promised, economic benefit to the local community, still that is a decision that rightly belongs with that community.

In this instance, however, Gettysburg battlefield belongs to the country, and this casino simply is inappropriate for the area of the battlefield. The presence of the casino would not be an additional draw to the area for me, but a factor dissuading me from visiting.

Casinos dot the landscape from coast to coast across the United States and there are plenty of options for those who wish to gamble. However, there is only one Gettysburg Battlefield and it can not be relocated. Please do not degrade the ambiance of the battlefield with the glitz of a casino. Undoubtedly, there are numerous alternative locations for the slots facility elsewhere in the region.

Name: **Fred Finney** State: **IL** County: **Champaign** ID: **2590** RegID: **2791**

A casino can be built many other places farther away from the Gettysburg National Park. Please keep this needless development away from the park vicinity.

It would be a disaster if this applicant is approved! It would severely impact the `Jewell` of Civil War battlefields by increased traffic on the only highway leading to it which and would adversely affect visitors to the Gettysburg battlefield.

The blood of our forefathers was spilled on this sacred ground, do not dishonor it.

There is a time and a place for everything but a gambling casino on or nearby the battlefields of Gettysburg, that is not the place at this or anytime in the future.

`Everybody gets so much information all day long that they lose their common sense.` - Gertrude Stein

Please don`t lose yours!

I cannot believe that a measure of this nature got this far. Gettysburg is HALLOWED GROUND. Is the almighty dollar so important that we would even consider bringing a casino within fifty miles of this place. I oppose this measure with ever fiber of my being, not only for myself and my family but also for my Great Grandfather

PVT Jacob Johntry 12th NYSVI, Gettysburg 2-5 July 1863. He would roll over in his grave at this very thought.

There are enough casinos going in & existing on the Mid East Coast. I don't believe another one will have the support it will need to survive.

In addition to that observation there is the fact of adding a desecration to hallowed ground.

I also believe it will bring more of the criminal & desperate element to a family oriented recreational area.

Name: **David West** State: **VA** County: **Goochland County** ID: **2603** RegID: **2800**

I am not against gambling, but sincerely hope some alternative location for a casino can be found. It would be a national tragedy to allow a casino this close to the Gettysburg National Military Park.

Name: **Thomas S. McClung** State: **Md** County: **USA** ID: **2604** RegID: **2804**

No casino! No way! Gettysburg is too important something as shallow and unnecessary as a gambling den!

Name: **kimberly huncherick**

State: **OH**

County: **Franklin**

ID: **2606**

RegID: **2803**

Gettysburg serves as a sober reminder of the costs of our Civil War. This area needs to be revered in remembrance. People visit out of reverence, not a Las Vegas experience. Casinos have no place here. First it was Walmart, now a casino, what is next??

Name: **Doug Fieldhouse** State: **AR** County: **Benton** ID: **2608** RegID: **2807**

Please do not build a casino adjacent to the Gettysburg battlefield. It is an insult to the memory of all those who fought there and an affront to those of us who would honor those men.

The Civil War was awful! I had a great, great-grandfather (who was killed) and two great-grandfathers who fought at Gettysburg. We need to have quiet space in the neighborhoods surrounding this and other Civil War battlefields so we can reflect, learn, and act with greater wisdom in the future. I oppose the application.

Please excuse the repetition if my initial comments came through. I had a computer problem in the midst of the entry process, and I'm not sure the message was sent. I'm writing to oppose the project. I want to keep as big a buffer as possible between developers' dreams and the hallowed ground of Gettysburg. Having relatives who served on both sides in the Civil War, I want to further expand the national park, not infringe on it. Keeping the whole area where the great clash took place as close to its mid-19th century condition as possible is my preference. Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

Name: **Douglas W.. Chadwick, M.D.**

State: **CA**

County: **Stanislaus**

ID: **2613**

RegID: **2816**

STRONGLY oppose, as my great-grandfather was a soldier in the 154th New York Volunteer Infantry, and fought at Gettysburg. A casino nearby will DEFINATELY dilute their valor and sacrifice.

Name: **Stephen D. Moore** State: **VA** County: **Spotsylvania** ID: **2614** RegID: **2813**

I oppose introduction of gaming in Gettysburg or nearby the Gettysburg Battlefield. The battlefield is sacred ground and this type business does not support the legacy of the battle at Gettysburg.

As a frequent visitor, CWPT, Gettysburg foundation member and funds contributor to the new visitor center, i am **STRONGLY** opposed to the idea of a casino to this area. Serious consideration needs to be taken here and the **BIG** picture looked at!!! While the lure of tax relief and the creating of jobs all sound great, remember, when it sounds too good to be true, it **ALWAYS** is.....What **REALLY** needs to be understood is the fact that these **JOBS** are mainly going to be part time minimum wage jobs (most likely without any benefits) and in the end a casino will turn this town into a crime ridden slum. Say goodbye to the tourists that come here (they wont feel safe anymore) Say goodbye to **ANY** local businesses with any relation to the battle (souvenir shops etc.) because they **WILL** all shut down one by one as the tourists stop coming. Oh and the college...forget that too...because people aren`t going to want to send their kids here anymore to go to school. **THEY ARENT GOING TO PLUNK OUT HUGE TUITIONS AND TAKE THE CHANCE OF THEIR KIDS GETTING CAUGHT UP IN THAT ATMOSPHERE.** Chances are **VERY** good bail bonds offices will become the new thriving business in Gettysburg once the increase in arrests start us with the muggings ,prostitution and drugs that are **ABSOLUTELY GARENTEED** to come along with a casino...and once its here, you`re **NEVER** going to be able to get rid of it and this incredible area will become just another (**USED TO BE**) place. **THINK** real careful about what you`re wishing for, because when you do, a casino doesn`t look like such a great idea after all.

This hallowed battlefield does not need to be defiled with a house of gambling!

I can understand the revenue generated from such facilities, though I am not a gambler myself. But Gettysburg is more than just another tourist trap for those willing to throw money down the drain. There are many places in this country that can benefit from a revenue stream like this. But do we need to choose one of the most famous sites in the United States of America, a place at which thousand lost their lives fighting this country. You can be sure that if for some reason that this resort is built, I will not send my money there and I will tell all my friends and family (even the gamblers) not to as well. Let`s not commercialize such a solemn location.

I believe that placing any gaming facility within close proximity to the hallowed ground of Gettysburg Battlefield, is incompatible with the necessary preservation of this most pivotal battle of the Civil War!

The fields of Gettysburg not only belong to the residents of Pennsylvania but to all of America. As an African-American I have taken my children to those hallowed grounds many times as I believe that my children and all future generations of my family should understand the sacrifice of human life that was given freely on these grounds that allow them to enjoy the freedoms they have today. To walk those grounds in silence and feel the energy of the surroundings is something that you can not experience in a book or word of mouth. A casino with the added traffic and noise would forever destroy this experience for my grandchildren and great grandchildren. There are many locations for a casino, but there is only one Gettysburg. I ask, please do not destroy the children of America`s future by placing a casino next this this most historical site.

We owe constant vigilance to the men who fought at Gettysburg, to preserve with integrity and dignity the sites of their sacrifices. The battlefields, encampment grounds, and burial sites of Gettysburg are sacred soil, and our duty is eternal remembrance. Those who want `entertainment` should go elsewhere.

Oppose gaming near this Hallowed ground.

There has to be a better place for your development than `on top of` some of the most Hallowed ground in the nation. This place where so many perished while fighting for freedom should be preserved, not paved over and destroyed. I`d be willing to bet (no pun intended) that if some of the people who support this casino idea did a little research, they`d find they had ancestors who fought and maybe even died on the battlefield! Something to think about.....

Name: **James D. Sanford**

State: **IL**

County: **McHenry**

ID: **2632**

RegID: **2835**

I strongly urge you to reject the proposal for a gaming facility so near to Gettysburg National Military Park...we need to preserve this battlefield for future generations to experience their heritage with the absolute minimum of crass commercialism to detract from the significance of this site.

Name: **Todd Holmes**

State: **CA**

County: **Fresno**

ID: **2633**

RegID: **2826**

Does the State of Pennsylvania really need a casino competing with the beautiful valley where the history of the U.S. and the world was so dramatically changed.? What would it say about how we value our heritage and the sacrifices that gave us the privilege of living in this great nation.

Name: **Gary L. Fuller** State: **CT** County: **Windham** ID: **2636** RegID: **2838**

No slots, no casino, ever. They only destroy lives. I vote NO.

Name: **Ted Hadden** State: **FL** County: **Duval** ID: **2639** RegID: **2839**

This is nothing but greed and will do no good for the tourists coming there for the historical value of the area. It would be a pity to desicrate this property in this manner.

I oppose any project that would threaten the battlefield, directly or indirectly.

Dear Planning Commission

Gettysburg NMP is one of our nation`s treasures. Please don`t allow congestion (and the environmental effects of congestion) to tarnish the battlefield and to diminish visitors` experiences of this turning point in US history.

Name: **Robert L. Ergood** State: **NJ** County: **Camden** ID: **2647** RegID: **2846**

PLEASE LEAVE THIS GROUND UPON WHICH MANY AMERICANS DIED DURING OUR CIVIL WAR IN TACT AND NOT BUILD ANY CORPORATE CONCERNS ANYWHERE NEAR THESE HALLOWED BATTLEFIELDS

I strongly oppose the proposed casino -- it`s completely incompatible with the unique and hugely significant historical character of the surrounding property. Please do not let this project proceed.

Please do not allow a casino anywhere near the sacred Gettysburg Battlefield. Casino gambling is not something I oppose in areas of fun and leisure. The battlefield is where men gave their lives for their ideals and principles not for tourists to gamble. We go there to learn from the mistakes of the past so that we do not repeat them. Let us never make light of the ultimate sacrifice these men gave.

I would ask you, in the name of all of the soldiers (both Blue & Gray), who fought at Gettysburg, to reject the casino proposal that is before you. The valiant men who struggled on the ground at Gettysburg, deserve to have this property kept sacred. I am not one who is opposed to casino gambling (I do it sometimes in my area): I just am opposed to placement of a casino near America`s most revered battle site. Please vote no on the Mason-Dixon Resort proposal. Thank You.

Name: **Andrew Linskey** State: **AL** County: **Madison** ID: **2652** RegID: **2850**

I oppose approval of the bid by Mason-Dixon Resorts LLP for a casino on the Emmitsburg Rd at Gettysburg.

Please help these hallowed grounds stay as sacred as possible. They cannot be moved while the casino can.

No Casino at Gettysburg!

To the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board: [Decision Maker],

Whereas, Gettysburg National Military Park is a shrine to those who fought and fell during that historic, three-day battle in July 1863 -- arguably the most important battle in American history;

Whereas, heritage tourism contributes significantly to the economic well-being of the Gettysburg community;

Whereas, a gambling casino 1/2 mile from the battlefield would alter the nature of the community, and adversely impact the experience of visitors who travel to Gettysburg to learn more about this singular time in our nation`s history, and its meaning;

We, the undersigned, strongly oppose any license to build a casino in or near Gettysburg, the site of this sacred Civil War battlefield.

Please vote `NO!` to the desecration of the hallowed ground where so many American soldiers valiantly fought and courageously died in a war that transformed our nation.

Please vote `No!` in support of protecting Gettysburg`s vibrant heritage tourism industry.

Please vote `No!` to the destruction of a national treasure enjoyed by thousands of Adams County residents and by more than one million annual visitors.

As person who was born and grew up in Pennsylvania (Northampton county), and who has visited Gettysburg Battlefield, originally with my father and later with my grandchildren, I urge you to not allow this casino.

I am unalterably opposed to the proposed casino within a half mile of the Gettysburg battlefield. It is too close to the `sacred ground` that was wet with the blood of brave people from both sides. There must be some other place for the casino that is not so near to such an historic landscape.

I am strongly against this proposal to further degrade the battlefield. It must be stopped.

The presence of this facility in proximity to and on top of the ground with such historic significance is offensive to many who feel reverence towards these wartime events. Mostly, though, such invasiveness is NOT NECESSARY, as the proponents can locate an alternative, possibly superior, site on land which is not so sensitive.

I love Gettysburg because there are very few places that have the significance, feel & beauty of that area. As a resident of Nevada who visits the Gettysburg area regularly, I am very concerned about the impact of the proposed casino because I see the downside of casinos every day in my home town. I have nothing against gaming however Gettysburg is not the place for it. Please don't ruin a national treasure. The potential damage will be very hard, if not impossible to fix. Thank you!

Placing a casino on any battlefield shows disrespect for our country and the men that fought and died for our country. Does the persuit of money know no boundries?

Name: **Phillip M. Seyfrit**

State: **KY**

County: **Madison**

ID: **2665**

RegID: **2865**

This is not an appropriate place for this type of venture.

I am a history teacher in Wisconsin and so I teach my students that Gettysburg is sacred ground. The ground has been consecrated by the blood of countless Wisconsin men and the men of other states who believed in a cause (right or wrong) and fought to preserve their beliefs. Every year after I teach my unit on the Civil War I have students who visit Gettysburg to walk the very ground that these men fought and died on and they come back with a light in their eyes. The light is the knowledge that these people believed in this nation so much that they died for it and that the ground preserved shows our dedication to their memories. If you allow a casino to be built on that soil, you are saying their losses matter not one bit for this country and our denying my students part of their heritage as a Wisconsinite and an American. Please vote no for the casino! Thank you.

While I don't have a right to interfere with your daily business, I don't feel I have a right to stand up for the dead. The proposed site is too close to sacred ground. I completely understand the need for jobs and economic growth but this is wrong. Please consider another site for the resort. I believe it is in the best interest of all parties.

Thank you

Name: **Dan Charles** State: **AL** County: **Madison** ID: **2670** RegID: **2874**

NOT There!!

My grandmother`s family came to York in 1731. My ancestor COL John Michael Smyser was a very decorated veteran in the Revolution.

My great grandfather SFC Michael Smyser was a POW in the Civil War and missed Gettysburg because he was being held at Belle Isle.

My ancestor William Wierman carried water to the Union Troops at Gettysburg from the family farm. It is a travesty to put up a casino in such close proximity to a battlefield that was an inflection point in the history of the US.

I am a Vietnam Veteran and president of the Captain Matthew Mead Branch, Connecticut Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. Seven members of my family served as officers in WWI, two in Vietnam and one in the current conflict.

How can we expect future generations to have any appreciation of our history if we bury it under something as frivolous and ill conceived as a Casino. To many of these sacred places of supreme sacrifice have already been destroyed or at least severely tainted by this type enterprise. It is difficult to feel the importance of these sites when there are so many meaningless distractions. How can one have a moment of silent reflection in the midst of the noise from the traffic crowds of people. Our country is losing its soul and this is one of the corroding factors. Why not put all casino`s over filled and covered landfills? They belong together.

I am concerned that this application will be detrimental to the historical importance of Gettysburg. It will completely change those that visit Gettysburg from a family destination to one of gamblers and fortune seekers. As a former New Jersey resident, I have seen first hand what happened to Atlantic City - there was nothing good that came out of bringing gambling to this city.

Name: **Gil Holt** State: **TX** County: **Tarrant** ID: **2677** RegID: **2884**

I am very much opposed to admitting gambling into the current population.
Gil Holt

Name: **BRADLEY K.. SANCHEZ** State: **CT** County: **NEW HAVEN** ID: **2678**
RegID: 2885

`Don`t Gamble with Gettysburg`s Future.`

I oppose such a resort/casino so close to Gettysburg and the National Military park. I visited Gettysburg with my late wife, who was from Lancaster, PA, and have purchased a memorial paving brick for Gettysburg in her name.

I feel the proposed development hurts the atmosphere of Gettysburg, a place of great importance to all Americans.

I have ancestors that fought and died for their country (CSA) at Gettysburg. Development of this important area is an affront to their memory. There are numerous plots of land in Pennsylvania to build on for those people gullible enough to gamble. Please avoid this and other battlefields from the War of Northern Aggression.

I oppose any casinos in direct relationship to the physical boundaries of the battlefield.

America is a young country, as countries go. We don't have the anything close to the history of Europe or the Middle East around us. Gettysburg is our Coliseum...our Tower of London...our pyramids. It marks the turning point of the most devastating war we have ever experienced.

Please don't belittle and trivialize the sacrifices made by our ancestors by allowing this travesty to continue.

Such a resort would detract significantly from the Gettysburg Battlefield environment.

Name: **Robert Barry** State: **Pa** County: **Centre** ID: **2690** RegID: **2893**

Please do not bring dishonor to this field of battle. The Gettysburg area is a sacred place, the tomb of many U.S. soldiers from the 1860`s. Don`t disturb this sacred place anymore with a facility that could be just as easily placed in another location.

Name: **Bryan Reeser** State: **NY** County: **Richmond** ID: **2693** RegID: **2892**

This country is in dire need of someone to take a stand on ripping apart on whatever land is left from over development. In 25 years you will be lucky to have any heritage left undisturbed with such aggressive building.

Allowing a casino anywhere near the Gettysburg battlefield is an insult to the men who died there so that this nation could continue to live. The potential owners of this casino are pulling all the strings behind the curtain, because if they came out front, they would lose what support they have. As to the jobs this casino would supposedly generate, ask the locals in places like Iowa how many new jobs fell to them, and how many were "already taken" by imports from New York and New Jersey.

As a resident of Adams County I am opposed to having a Casino in the County. It is to close to the Gettysburg National Battlefield Park. I am also very concerned about the Casino being open 24 hrs a day, and serving Alcohol 24 hrs a day. I don't want to have to worry about coming home from work, or going to work, and having a drunk driver from the Casino hitting me, another county resident, or tourist.

I oppose having a gambling / gaming establishment anywhere near the Gettysburg Battlefield. I had two GG Grandfathers fight on those fields and those hallowed fields should not have these types of business anywhere near them. The next thing you know there will business applying for stip club license next door to Little round Top.

Name: **Orton T. Begner** State: **NY** County: **Monroe** ID: **2697** RegID: **2901**

I am opposed to putting a casino anywhere near Gettysburg, Pa. This is a place of history not a place for gaming. There certainly must be other places in Pa. to put this casino.

Please do not approve of this casino so close to the Gettysburg battlefield. To put an establishment dedicated to profit based on random chance so close to the battlefield would be an insult to the valiant men who struggled there.

I strongly oppose this terrible use of this special property.

Name: **Jeff and Sue Seward** State: **AL** County: **Madison** ID: **2701** RegID: **2904**

I believe this is sacred ground for all Americans and it is a sacrilege to build a gaming establishment near this site.

Name: **Joseph R. Bellas** State: **OH** County: **Miami** ID: **2704** RegID: **2906**

Please locate the casino elsewhere, away from the Gettysburg Battlefield. Put it closer to a metro area, like Philadelphia or Pittsburgh.

I am opposed to the application by Mason-Dixon Resorts, LP. Their proposed location is too close to the Gettysburg National Military Park.

Name: **Jean A. Cairns** State: **IL** County: **DuPage** ID: **2706** RegID: **2909**

There should be NO casino anywhere within a 50 mile radius of Gettysburg National Battle Field. This is sacred ground where many brave men lost their life.

Name: **James M. Reynolds**

State: **VA**

County: **Fairfax**

ID: **2707**

RegID: **2910**

I visit Gettyburg often. It is hallowed ground. There should not be a casino there. There are plenty of other places that you could put a casino. There is only one Gettysburg. I oppose this proposal and would certainly never visit the casino.

This is hallowed ground. My G-G-Grandfather was wounded on the first day of the battle. Let us not sully the honor of all those who sacrificed so much with a gambling resort or casino. `All gave some and some gave all`.

The Gettysburg Battlefield Park is already surrounded by commercial activity which vitiates its integrity and negates much of the experience the park was created to protect and preserve. Adding a casino so close to the park exacerbates that problem.

Please note that the infusion of cash this project would supposedly bring to the area - the usual siren call of such undertakings - is probably illusory. Currently, the casinos in my area (Mohegan Sun, etc.) are LOSING money. People without jobs are people without income; they cannot afford to squander money at slot machines and roulette tables.

This renders the proposed project as dubious economically as it is esthetically and historically.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Keith G. Langer, Esq.

Gambling at Gettysburg is just wrong, how does that act reflect upon the lessons of history?

Name: **Michael Schmitt** State: **NE** County: **Douglas** ID: **2716** RegID: **2919**

There is plenty of other space in Pennsylvania to build a casino. It doesn't need to be practically right on top of where 50,000 people died to keep the United States free, and as one whole nation.

Dear Board Members,

Please deny the pending use permit for a casino adjacent to the Gettysburg National Military Park. Such a use is completely incompatible with this historic national treasure. I would further request that you deny any request for such a use that is within 50 miles of the Gettysburg National Military Park.

Respectfully,

Mike Stoops

This would be a mistake that our grandchildren grandchildren will be paying for. Please do not disgrace the memories of the men who fought and died here.

I oppose the development of a casino in the Gettysburg PA area. I see no immediate or long term benefit to this project to the economic, cultural or aesthetic improvemnet of the area and in fact I believe a casino would detract from the socio-economic conditions currently in the greater Gettysburg area. I visit the area annually and usually stay and dine 1-2 evenings in the area. Should a casino be constructed, I would seriously have to re-evaluate my travel to to area.

Name: **Wayne J. Rowe**

State: **RI**

County: **USA**

ID: **2729**

RegID: **2925**

No Casino in Gettysburg

Although the proposed location is 1/2 mile off the battlefield property owned by the National Park Service, All of Gettysburg is really Civil War land. The men who fought there died all over the place, and the very name of Gettysburg is now associated with the “last full measure of devotion” that Abraham Lincoln spoke of. The casino builders want to capitalize on the name of Gettysburg, which was made famous by the men who fought and died there - and it is disrespectful to them. Right now, the town is idyllic and offers visitors the opportunity and the environment to reflect on what happened there. With a casino nearby, a different kind of visitor will be attracted, traffic will increase, and history will be buried amidst the smog and nightlife. I have nothing against casinos in general, but not on or near hallowed ground, or capitalizing on hallowed ground.

Name: **Frank Beer** State: **KS** County: **Riley** ID: **2736** RegID: **2928**

There are literally thousands of places that a casino can go. There is only ONE Gettysburg. Please respect the special nature of this sacred place and NOT place this casino where it stands in stark contrast to all that Gettysburg means!

Very opposed to further commercialization of this sacred area.

Just as a Mosque does not belong at Ground-Zero, a casino does not belong near Gettysburg. It`s not a legal thing, it`s not a political thing, it`s just the right thing.

Gettysburg/Adams county enjoys the visitors money as well as the tax dollars from every state in the union and the world. Gettysburg belongs to `US` as much as Adams Co.

Name: **Amie Kraus** State: **MI** County: **Emmet** ID: **2740** RegID: **2935**

Please, let`s not have casinos on historic lands in Gettysburg.

The casino will take away from the beauty and history of the area and our nation.

Dear Mason Dixon Resorts,

I oppose any gaming facility in or around the Gettysburg area.

Gettysburg should remain forever linked to our struggle as a nation and overcoming great conflict. The ground in and around Gettysburg is sacred to those that fought and those that died there over that three day period in 1863.

The gaming facility would aim to feed off the numerous visitors who are there for historical education, self-growth, and the hope of gaining a better understanding of the battle itself. Gettysburg was a defining moment for our country and world renowned for the most defining moment in U.S. Civil War history.

I ask that anyone go to the High Water Mark, Devils Den, or Little Round Top and picture the thousands of soldiers fighting to gain ground for their respective side and ask yourself- is this the right area for a gaming facility?

My answer is NO. The image of the North and South soldiers engaged in battle with cannon fire and battle cries becomes tarnished and quickly overshadowed with the echo of gaming facility annoyances - slot machine bells, bright lights, and increased traffic.

Help us keep the most important part of American History intact.
Choose a different city or town for your gaming facility. Choose somewhere different than Gettysburg.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,
Stanley Seiders

Name: **Craig L. Johansen**

State: **WI**

County: **Dane**

ID: **2744**

RegID: **2940**

I do not believe a gaming facility near the Gettysburg battlefield is appropriate given significance of this hallowed ground to all Americans. The voices of the past and present deserve to be heard on this issue of preservation versus short term interests.

Name: **Harvey B. Savitt**

State: **ny**

County: **Suffolk**

ID: **2745**

RegID: **2946**

I am opposed to the project proposed by Mason-Dixon Resorts, LP. In my opinion, the project will have an adverse effect on the battlefield national park

The Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association: The Slow Decline

Founded in 1959, the Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association was once a force in protecting the sanctified nature of the nation's largest Civil War battlefield.

However, in recent years the organization has veered off-track and has slowly faded into relative obscurity. The latest statement only underscores their dramatic decline into the fringe of those concerned about Gettysburg's future. One wonders what General Eisenhower, a former GBPA board member, would have to say about their latest absurd position on the proposed casino.

In September 2006 the Civil War Courier investigated the origins of the GBPA's loss of credibility.

The Courier noted that it was in 1999 when the GBPA began to change dramatically.

It was then that the administrative officers accepted \$100,000 from a developer to not oppose site development of an historic property known as Camp Letterman during the Civil War.

There was a written legal agreement between the developer and the GBPA that stated, "the Association, through any of its officers and directors, shall not object, oppose, publicly criticize or otherwise attempt to prevent or delay Caldwell Development from proceeding with the pending site development."

Neither the membership nor the public knew of this. Indeed the letter between the attorneys involved stated that this "is being given to you on a confidential basis to be shared only with those officers of the Association at this time who are instrumental in entering into such arrangement."

The investigative piece by the Courier further explained that in 2005 the GBPA,

Initiated a 'gentleman's agreement' with the developer who has land adjacent to the Daniel Lady Farm on Route 116. With the promise of "no adverse actions" towards the development of the George Wolf Farm, the GBPA would receive a narrow strip of land equal to the 10-foot setback along a common boundary. This boundary is 2,000 feet long and the total amount of land to be set aside for a historic interpretive trail would be less than one-half acre. A pittance compared to the over 80-acres due to be developed. Additionally, the developer promised to give to the GBPA all of the stones from the foundation of the Wolf farmhouse the GBPA wanted in order to complete some project on the Daniel Lady Farm.

This too, is a meager amount, hardly enough to make a pick-up truck's load. The loss of this land, like most in the vicinity of the town of Gettysburg, would be a tragedy.

This land was the site of the encampment of the Louisiana Brigade of Johnson's Division. It also contains, besides the farm buildings, possible entrenchments dug by those troops for defensive positions. This is precisely the type of endangered battlefield the GBPA originally was created to protect and preserve. [emphasis added].

The organization further sullied its once great reputation by entering into the first casino proposal in 2006. President Kathi Shue testified FOR the casino in 2006 at the Pa Gaming Control board hearing for the

entire 10-minute time slot allotted to the GBPA, then later said she was "misquoted" and that her organization was neutral.

During that fight the Courier noted that,

The president [went] on record in the media stating the GBPA is not opposed to the construction of the proposed casino project at Gettysburg. No vote was taken by the board, or membership, giving the president the mandate of declaring such to the media. The GBPA has received thousands of dollars in support from the casino's Chief Executive Officer [David LeVan] and affiliated organizations for its restoration efforts.

Regrettably, this same Casino investor, David LeVan, is behind the latest proposal to turn hallowed ground into a slots parlor and gaming facility, leading many to wonder if his contributions to the GBPA influenced their latest stunt.

All of this controversy and scandal has led many members to leave the organization over the years. This situation was only worsened by the latest statement endorsing the casino which caused a rash of statements in the blogosphere condemning the now less than credible organization. Some of those statements are provided below.

What former GBPA President (1990-2001) Dr. Walt Powell has to say:

Dr. Walt Powell: I am very sorry to learn that the GBPA has endorsed the casino—but not surprised, as the current Board seems so disposed. I have to wonder if they made any effort to poll the membership?

The organization accomplished some great things in the past, including, of course, support for the expansion of the boundaries of GNMP, the purchase of hundreds of acres (including the Daniel Lady Farm)...

But I'm not sure many people can point to much of what the GBPA does now, and in the future they may be more likely remembered as one of the few Civil War organizations that endorsed the casino. I, for one, don't think that is a legacy to be proud of.

What former members have to say:

Cavalry historian Eric Wittenberg: ` Once upon a time, the Gettysburg Battlefield Protection Association really stood for battlefield preservation. It fought long and hard against the loss of the railroad cut on the first day's battlefield -- I even offered my professional services to help in that fight as a young lawyer -- and it saved the Daniel Lady Farm, which although little fighting took place there, was an important spot linking the Benner's Hill area to the Culp's Hill sector of the battlefield. The organization did great work then. That, however, was then. This is now. And now, the GBPA has sold its soul to the devil by coming out in favor of the casino proposal.`

Historian J.D. Petruzzi: `I regret the money I've given the organization in the past, the living history events I've participated in for the GBPA at the Lady Farm, and all other support I've given it over the years. They have indeed saved a great deal of land for the battlefield, but such a galactic mistake of this serves to completely erase all of that goodwill. I hope everyone withdraws their support for this organization, and that reenactors/living historians stop taking part in events for them. Their support of this casino is a slap in the face to all who treasure historical gems like Gettysburg. The GBPA needs to do the

right thing and dissolve. They have betrayed history, the veterans, and all of us who treasure our past. Let other true preservation groups take over the mantle of protecting Gettysburg.`

Jennifer Nash: `They have betrayed history and betrayed the memory of the men who fought and died at Gettysburg. Sold their souls to the devil for a few pieces of silver. They should disband immediately.`

Ultimately, if the GBPA is to regain its proud place in protecting Gettysburg's historic resources it cannot continue to endorse projects that will irrevocably damage the character and nature of the area.

Endorsing a casino ½ mile from the National Park because it's supposedly "well south" of the battlefield and claiming its necessary to preserve the Daniel Lady farm (also not technically within the boundaries of the park) in the same breath is unusual, hypercritical, and unprofessional in the extreme. You simply cannot have it both ways.

The members have spoken; Gettysburg has spoken: The GBPA needs to change its less-than credible ways or expect to become the pariah of preservation.

I'm opposed to the Mason Dixon Proposal.

1) Gettysburg does not have the infrastructure for this proposal and without Government infusion of funds up front it will never have the infrastructure.

2) Gettysburg is sacred ground. We can not gamble with something so sacred. This proposal will damage the atmosphere of rural Adams County and destroy the visitation experience. Gettysburg is Heritage, not profit.

3) Employees. Unemployment is not that great a problem in Adams County and the immediate surrounding area. This proposal could injure those already existing businesses by competin for a scarce commodity, people.

Granted there is seasonal unemployment in Adams County. It`s a largely rural/ agricultural community. Once harvesting, the growing season is done a large proportion of their workers,transient immigrant, either stays in Adams and collects government aid, or they move on . The Available employable populace of Adams County will never be able to support this venture. This will lead to more taxes for infrastructure above and beyond that needed for the Casino. If more employees are needed it will lead to a population growth, new housing, (which are not real sustainable jobs!) , and as quoted before, a large outlay for infrastructure that isn`t affordable to Adams County.

4) The gaming industry has become saturated. This casino will not draw new clientele. Rather it will draw off of Hollywood and Charlestown. Profits will go down at both sites. Thus another reason to dissuade the approval of this proposal.

Mason Dixon is a losing proposition all the way around.

Unlike others though I propose a solution rather than simple opposition with no solution.

My solution .The Nemaocolin site . Unemployment is a problem in that region. Taxes are going to destroy that area if a solution isn`t found to lessen the load on that populace. The employee base is better all the way around.

The proposal at Nemaocolin will provide jobs and tax relief and provide funds for government, schools, and infrastructure. It will also tap into a area not already saturated with casinos/ gambling facilities. A large population near Nemaocolin is available and in need of employment. Unlike Adams County.Nemaocolin then would be a real winner for all of us in Pennsylvania.

Mason-Dixon benefits one person and his investors only. David leVan!

With other applications and the opposition to this Adams County Casino, it would seem that there are much better locations for a casino. With fierce opposition and the unknown damage to the Gettysburg name and battlefield, I urge you to seek an alternate location. My ancestor fought at Gettysburg. I go there to view the field and have no interest in gambling and/or seeing this area with the added cars, and development associated with a casino.

Name: **Melissa Vu** State: **CA** County: **USA** ID: **2751** RegID: **2950**

Please keep Gettysburg as-is, BEAUTIFUL AND PEACEFUL!!

As a concerned US citizen I would like to voice my strongest opposition to the application for a Casino that is so close to the battlefield at Gettysburg Pa. I cannot think of a more unpatriotic and uncaring act than applying for a gaming license so close to this hallowed ground let alone approving such a request. If this license is approved I say shame on everyone who had a hand in it!!

Please do not put slots on gettysburg. There are may other places for a casino.

a casino has no place encroaching upon such a historic location. The two types of activity cannot coexist as they draw two completely different groups of people. It will also adversely affect historical property and landmarks. Gettysburg has already done a wonderful job in removing many nonhistoric structures from the area. This development will ruin the landscape.

A gambling establishment adjacent to one of the great battlefields that formed this great modern nation is hardly a way to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Regardless of what the promoters say about drawing more people to see the battlefield, people who typically frequent these types of establishments have no interest in the history of the area in which the establishment is located. In fact the opposite is probably more likely to occur: more adjunct business will be built thus further destroying the history of the area.

Name: **Nancy E. Eddins**

State: **GA**

County: **Henry**

ID: **2762**

RegID: **2959**

I am absolutely opposed to placing a casino in this hallowed place. There is enough development now without further desecrating Gettysburg. Tourists will NOT come to use this facility because of the opposition of so many people and the building will stand as a further blight on the town.

Name: **Kenneth D. Johnson** State: **PA** County: **Jefferson** ID: **2763** RegID: **2956**

I do not believe that a casino near the Gettysburg Battlefield is in good taste. It can only destroy and disgrace what took place there in 1863. There certainly must be other good areas a casino could be built and operated other than Gettysburg. Thank You

Name: **francis e. grenier**

State: **fl**

County: **hillsboro**

ID: **2766**

RegID: **2962**

no gambling on hallowed ground!

As a descendant of the Weikert line that has lived in the Gettysburg area for generations, I am most decidedly opposed to the idea of a Casino being built in the area of the hallowed ground of this battlefield. This is a virtual `Pandora`s Box` that the city must not open. Cities and towns that start allowing gambling and casinos never stay the same, and it simply is not worth the risk of what could happen to the nature of Gettysburg if this casino is allowed to open. For one thing, it is indisputable that the problem would not stop with one casino. Others would surely follow, and the type of `tourists` that would then start coming to Gettysburg would make a mockery of the area where the fate of the Union hung in the balance in those first few days of July, 1863. I cannot imagine hearing the immortal words of Lincoln`s speech and thinking of them becoming associated with the type of business and clientele that would descend upon the town if this casino is built, clientele that quite possibly would have no interest in what took place in that region almost 150 years ago. Gettysburg, its environs, and the battlefield itself must be protected for future generations, and such a risk as this gambling project must not be taken. The stakes are far too high in terms of our country`s heritage and the very meaning of Gettysburg itself. Build this casino, and in my mind there is no question that the city itself will never be the same. I therefore strongly urge that this project be voted down.

Please save Gettysburg from this crass and grotesque attempt to feed the greed on some of the most hallowed ground in America. Greed is destroying everything that was good and fine in this country, it must stop. I went to college in Carlisle and treasure every trip I made to this incredible place. We must treasure our heritage and stop chasing filthy lucre. Enough already!

thank you.

Please don't build a casino in Gettysburg.

I am very much against allowing a casino type environment anywhere near Gettysburg. This is a sacred site on American soil - it was the turning point in our history. While I am sure that it would be a lucrative venture, it is also just plain wrong. Our history should not be subject to the whim of the almighty dollar. Please prevent this from moving forward. Much appreciated.

I have visited Gettysburg several times and I have taken my son there. Gettysburg is a hallowed place, an incredibly important part of our American history. To desecrate the area with a casino is unthinkable! The traffic that such a place would create would most certainly distract from the serenity of the park. My son and I will be back in Gettysburg in 2013, to participate in the 150th anniversary of that historic battle. I definitely don't want to battle with casino-goers for access to the park. PLEASE do not vote to allow a casino in Gettysburg! As General Lee supposedly said as the battle neared, `This is good ground`. Please keep it that way. There is a place for a casino, but Gettysburg is most assuredly not that place.

I am a resident of Saratoga County I have witnessed first hand how the Racino in Saratoga has not benefited but has actually devastated Saratoga's economy. Research it yourself.

Also, I would like to know who in the Gaming Commission will be the first to step forward and accept responsibility when the first tourist visiting the battlefield is run down by someone departing the casino in a highly intoxicated state after hours of consuming alcoholic beverages and gambling. This proposed facility is just way too close to the battlefield and the multitude of tourist visiting the battlefield and is a recipe for a certain disaster.

I would no sooner approve of slot machines on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. than to allow a Casino near the Gettysburg Battlefields.

I have just been informed that a casino is proposed that would impact on the Gettysburg Battlefield area. I strongly oppose this. As Mammy to Scarlet in *Gone With the Wind*, 'It just ain't fitten!'

Indeed it is not. I realize that gambling interests and interests of historic preservation are miles apart but, really now, Gettysburg?

What will future generations of school children think?

I love historic Gettysburg and do extensive Civil War travel, even from here in Colorado. Our state has three historic towns that elected gaming years back. They have changed, permanently. Hate to sound `snooty` but there is nothing interesting left in Black Hawk or Central City, just people heading from the parking lot to the new structures blasted into the mountainside. No guide books needed, just cards around their necks and plastic buckets for coins.

I have been visiting Gettysburg for nearly 45 years. I now bring my children there to learn about the battle. If a casino is built, I doubt that I would return to the battlefield. It would spoil the atmosphere of the area. Please deny the request to put a slot casino in the Gettysburg area. Thank you.

Financial gain can be the only possible reason to further erode the already endangered tranquility of the Gettysburg National Military Park and surrounding environs. I suggest that this casino project proposal be rejected by those in a position to vote `no`.

Antonia Mitman
Falls Church, Virginia

Name: **Karl C. Rohr** State: **AP** County: **AP** ID: **2787** RegID: **2994**

Building a casino near the Gettysburg Battlefield is an insult to Veterans past and present, as I am a veteran I know for whom I speak. Keep the casinos where they belong. They do not belong near the Gettysburg National Cemetery and Historical Park areas.

Name: **Robert Twining** State: **VA** County: **Fairfax** ID: **2788** RegID: **2995**

I am against the Casino anywhere near the Gettysburg battlefield. With all the space in Pennsylvania, I suggest they locate this facility far from any Historic property especially Gettysburg battlefield!

Name: **Frank and Debbie Kendrick** State: **CA** County: **Santa Barbara** ID: **2789**
RegID: 2992

Although living in California we strongly oppose the concept of a gambling casino on or near the hallowed ground of the Gettysburg battlefield. We visited Gettysburg last year and love the current programs to preserve and restore the battlefield where our ancestors fought! The battlefield has become a treasure in many ways since the first visit in 1949! Please do not allow the gambling casino to desecrate our common heritage!

Name: **Chip Galloway** State: **VA** County: **Stafford** ID: **2791** RegID: **3001**

I urge you to vote against the approval of a casino so close to the Gettysburg National Battlefield Park. The park is a national treasure that must be protected for future generations. Please do the right thing and vote no.

Sincerely,
Chip Galloway
Stafford, VA

Name: **Jim Riley**

State: **FL**

County: **Palm Beach**

ID: **2792**

RegID: **3000**

I have visited Gettysburg three times for the HISTORY. I plan on visiting again soon. I do not want to see the hallowed ground desecrated and the `Gettysburg Experience` tarnished. Isn't Pennsylvania large enough to find a more appropriate location for a casino? Vote NO!

Name: **Michael Catron** State: **FL** County: **Duval** ID: **2793** RegID: **3002**

The casino should be turned down and never brought up again. If it passes all the traffic that it might bring could end up destroying the most known battlefield in the US.

Name: **Bonnie S. Saunders**

State: **Wa**

County: **King**

ID: **2795**

RegID: **3007**

How can you even consider building a gambling facility where 1,00`s of Americans lost their lives? What you are doing is callus and un-american. STOP!

I oppose the building of any casino in the region of the Gettysburg National Military Park. It is apparent that a number of areas in the state could sustain a casino and not have it compromise the surrounding area like it would in Gettysburg. Great efforts have been made in the Gettysburg area to return much of the area to its historical appearance including burying of power lines, tearing down non-historical structures, (the National Tower, the Home Sweet Home Motel, and recently the purchase of two newer homes that will be taken down), along with other restorations that continue to show an eye toward future generations that will visit the area. It would be a shame to compromise these advances with something as commercial as a casino so near by.

I am writing to remind the board that the site for the proposed Gettysburg casino is not as distant from historic ground as many proponents say it is. General Merritt`s Union cavalry dismounted to begin a northward advance on the third day of the battle at a point virtually across the street from the Eisenhower complex. All the ground between that point and the southern NPS park boundary was involved in subsequent combat. Some of that ground is developed , some is not, but all of it should be preserved to the extent possible. Allowing casino development so nearby is likely to ruin the historic scene forever.

What will be next? Bingo tables at the Arlington National Cemetery!

Will Abraham Lincoln`s burial site be desecrated by installing a roulette wheel as a headstone?

I live within 40 miles of 2 casinos. Both have made the same promises of income to the community and jobs. One of them just laid off 100 people and will be hiring back 40 of them at lower salaries. The employees of any new casino will eventually have to unionize to fight off money hungry investors. The people of Gettysburg are being duped by a former politician that fronts for Mason-Dixon Resorts, LP.

Please do not allow a casino to built near Gettysburg NHP. It would forever damage the serenity of the most hallowed symbol of sacrifice in America. My ancestor fought there to preserve the Union and all who served or died there deserve more respect.

Save the Gettysburg battlefield

The Gettysburg Battlefield and the surrounding area are National treasures that should not be degraded by the presence of a gambling establishment and the distractions it would bring to an area of reverence. Casinos can be located anywhere, but the site of the battle cannot. Leave it be in peace and quiet.

I became a civil war buff about two years ago, after walking up to the top of Little Round Top in Gettysburg. I am now 65, and late to the game. But the view took my breath away, and I fell in love with Gettysburg. I go there whenever I can. The thought of a noisy, flashy, gaudy gambling casino close to my beloved hallowed ground is deeply saddening. I would not want to go back there if the Mason-Dixon Resorts took hold. Ultimately the resort would fail, as a result of a glut of gambling casinos. And then the serenity of the battlefield would be lost. People should not rely on gambling to save our economy. It eventually makes the rich richer and the poor poorer. Please don't cheapen one of my favorite places in the world. You will lose a lot of tourism if you do.

A casino near Gettysburg will severely damage the area`s historical significance. I`ve visited the park/town several times--even after leaving my native Delaware in 1981....
and I hope that the park and town`s landscape will not be
polluted with a slot casino nearby.

It is important not to ruin the area with a casino, it would be a sad day.

A California tourist

Name: **Henry H. Olinde** State: **LA** County: **East Baton Rouge Parish** ID: **2815**
RegID: 3013

The land in question has been appropriately labelled `consecrated`. To open it to gambling or `gaming` would be to desecrate it.

I have been visiting gettysburg twice a year for the last twenty years. If you move forward with the olanned casino I will lose all faith in not only your state but your county and city as well. I will no longer come to my favorite place on this earth, me and my money will stay away.

I would like to state that any gaming establishment should not be built near the Gettysburg Battlefield. We need to preserve our history for future generations. Gaming establishments, as I can attest from what happened in Tampa when the Hard Rock was built, bring more building and more spiral and this is not something we need near the Battlefield. Build the gaming establishment somewhere else NOT next to the Battlefield, please.

Name: **Mary E. Felder**

State: **OR**

County: **Deschutes**

ID: **2821**

RegID: **3024**

I belong to the Civil War Heritage Foundation and come to Gettysburg several times a year for civil war events. I travel over 3,000 miles from Bend, OR to this beautiful place of honor not to gamble. There are more casinos through out this country than beautiful sacred land. Please, for all the millions of people that come to Gettysburg that, myself talk to love coming to Gettysburg because of what it stands for. So many gave the ultimate sacrifice on this land, please keep it a place of honor. Thank You.

Mary Felder
56222 Solar Drive
Bend, OR 97707

Dear Control Board Members,

As an individual who has lived in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and the bordering state of Maryland, I have had a lifelong interest in Gettysburg. Although I have never been a resident of the borough of Gettysburg or Adams County, a part of me has always resided in the Gettysburg community. Over the years, I have traveled to the region on day trips, as well as extended week-long visits. It is my favorite place to spend time... and in addition, my money.

As someone with a passion for history, especially the American Civil War, I greatly value the efforts of all the regional organizations and the NPS, who have contributed to the development, growth, and maintenance of the Gettysburg National Military Park. As the Park continues to reclaim its 1863 appearance and additional lands to enhance the visitors experience and accurately represent the history of the battle and the land, I find it curious and appalling that a casino could be considered on the hallowed ground of this battlefield. (And let`s not even argue that it is not on park land... because it is on part of the battlefield, regardless of who currently owns the deed on the property. That property was paid for by Union and Confederate blood.)

As a resident of several states that have all struggled with the concept of casinos and gambling, I know that gaming will not answer all of the economic problems of Adams County. It will not be the great financial savior it has been advertised to be, but it will compromise the ability to fully enjoy your greatest economic resource in the area... the GNMP!

I strongly urge you to oppose the proposal by Mason-Dixon Resorts. Please do not infringe on the one the greatest historical resources in America. I ask that you protect the hallowed ground for all generations, and that you not desecrate the memory of all those that served there. Many will note and long remember what you say and do at this time, in regards to this issue.

I appreciate your attention to my request.

Sincerely,
Brian W. Horgan

Opposed!

I had Confederate ancestors who fought for Southern independence at Gettysburg in the War for Southern rights. Please do not let a company desecrate this land for short term gain, when, in the long term, more revenue will be provided by tourist dollars who come to see where the most decisive battle ever fought on American soil occurred.

Gettysburg is not about making money...it is about remembrance...Lincoln would throw them in jail.

Name: **daniel g. sayers** State: **mi** County: **bay** ID: **2835** RegID: **3038**

the gettysburg battlefield is a national treasure that should be preserved for future generations of americans. it was the place where the future of our country was decided.

Gettysburg is a national shrine in this country. Too much history happened there to sully the landscape with a gambling casino. It may sound like a wonderful idea on the surface, but so much tourism business will be lost, that it will outweigh any perceived benefits to be gained by a casino. People who are interested in visiting Gettysburg are not interested in spending their time in a gambling casino. Approval of such a proposal is not worth the problems engendered by a casino, nor the goodwill that will be lost.

It would be a disgrace to the entire USA as well as the thousands who died or were wounded at the Battle of Gettysburg to allow a Casino to be built on or near the 1863 battlefield. For what? The greed to hopefully make some money? **SAVE GETTYSBURG!!!!!!**

Not only should the present attempt to build a Casino be **TURNED DOWN** - It should be stated that there should never be another greedy attempt to build a Casino anywhere near Gettysburg. **NOT NOW, NOT EVER!**

Name: **Robert Lee. Rainey** State: **PA** County: **Centre** ID: **2841** RegID: **3043**

Four of my ancestors fought at Gettysburg. Two of them were killed there. I do not believe they would appreciate a casino in close proximity to the battlefield. On their behalf, I oppose this proposal.

Name: **Chip Bates** State: **OR** County: **MARION** ID: **2842** RegID: **3042**

We shouldn't have to continually spend our time & money defending America's Heritage. Who are these people? Get rid of these people & don't even talk to the next ones who come along.

Name: **michael w. baughman** State: **pa** County: **westmorland** ID: **2844** RegID:
3047

I oppose putting casino near Gettysburg

Any kind of gambling or casinos will only serve to lessen the sacredness of the Gettysburg area. The battle of Gettysburg decided the fate of our nation. Thousands of people gave their lives there for a cause they believed in, on both sides. We need to preserve and honor their memory, putting in a casino or gambling of any kind will disrespect the people who fought there.

No casino near Gettysburg. It`s a travesty.

Please do NOT disturb the peace of this hallowed ground. Remember that thousands of Americans died here. The entire battleground area is a CEMETERY!

Build your play palace somewhere else. Your obvious disrespect for the fallen soldiers betrays that your ONLY interest is in money. Shame on you!!!

I visit Gettysburg twice a year, I love the history of Gettysburg and everything related to the Civil War battle fought there. I also love the quaint shops and the small town atmosphere. It would be a shame to ruin your beautiful historic town by turning it into just another seedy casino town with gridlock traffic jams, filled with criminals and people who become desperate for money just so they can place their next bet. If you want to see what gambling does to people spend the night at Foxwoods or the Moheagan Sun and you will see the kind of people who frequent casinos - certainly not the type you want in Gettysburg. Please do not license this casino and spoil your beautiful and historic town.

Respectfully,

Deborah Frattaroli

Name: **Bill Muros** State: **TX** County: **Dallas** ID: **2851** RegID: **3051**

I stringly oppose a casino anywhere near the Gettysburg battlefield. I believe a casino will denegrate the visitor experiencxe to the historic village and battlefield.

Name: **Kathy Hill** State: **NJ** County: **Ocean** ID: **2852** RegID: **3053**

The importance in `place` when teaching future generations of Americans their nation`s history cannot be underestimated. This is land where men and women shed their blood and to place a gambling facility there solely for the purpose of making money is abomidable.

A casino in Gettysburg is a preposterous idea. This is hallowed ground that honors all those who were willing to give their lives for their country and their ideals. Gettysburg represents all that is magnificent about American ideals. A casino, which represents greed, one of the seven deadly sins, and striving to get something for nothing, is most assuredly not a proper use of the Gettysburg location.

This is perhaps the least appropriate, most offensive location in the state for a gambling establishmeny. The traffic alone from any large development less than a mile from the battlefields of Gettysburg would cause irretreivable harm to this nationally significant historic sanctuary and should be forcefully opposed.

This is hallowed ground--no casino nearby-Outrageous idea.

Gettysburg is hallowed ground & is no place for a casino.

Charlestown is close enough for most folks to get to & in the present economic climate, I don't think another casino so close would do well.

Name: **David A. Gibbons** State: **OR** County: **Polk** ID: **2866** RegID: **3063**

Please do not build the casino at Gettysburg. Another site further from the battlefield would be much better

I am an avid US History student and have been for many years. I am a Civil War reenactor and have visited Gettysburg and the battlefield. While I understand the need for progress, a casino within the vicinity of the most hallowed ground in America is not progress, it's greed and a lack of caring about our history and what made us who we are today.

There is absolutely no reason to soil the ground that our ancestors fought and died over. Once before the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board vetoed the petition to allow a casino in Gettysburg and I hope that it will continue to hold the line and once again reject this project as I know the local citizens and most Americans are hoping.

With so little of our natural resources left protected, it is important that we keep this natural treasure as it is. Many men from all walks of life fought and died here...please honor them by keeping the battlefield as is and do not build a tourist trap that will detract from the honor and glory they draped on it!

I am adamantly opposed to allowing a casino near our nation`s most hallowed ground and to pollute the solemnity of this battlefield.

It's been said by other historians like myself but I want to go on record as opposing the establishment of a casino on ground sanctified by the blood of true patriots. Their sacrifice to save the Union should never be allowed to be diminished by what a gambling casino represents.

Name: **Bradford D. Parkhurst** State: **NH** County: **Hillsborough** ID: **2879** RegID:
3069

I am totally opposed to the location of a casino near the sacred Gettysburg Battlefield where my great grandfather served!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Name: **Mathew D. Lybrand** State: **MI** County: **Wayne** ID: **2882** RegID: **3073**

Please do not desecrate the hallowed ground where our ancestors fought and, in many cases, died.

Our nation`s history is very important to who we are as a people and nation today. The Battlefield at Gettysburg is a major part of that history as it is considered the turning part of the Civil War which kept our nation united. It should be left undisturbed by modern development so that future generations can come to its hollowed ground and learn from the ghosts that silently speak. There is other places to build on that are not important to our history. Leave us with what little we have left. Please, for our sake and those of the dead.

I cannot think of anything that would be less appropriate than to establish a gaming facility on the edge of the hallowed grounds of the Gettysburg Battlefield. Surely there are other, more suitable, areas available.

Name: **Ken L. Crum** State: **Al** County: **Tallapoosa** ID: **2888** RegID: **3075**

What is sacred in this country any more - so sad that this is even being considered - please use good sense when reviewing this application - think of our history and what it means

I am a frequent visitor to the Gettysburg area. I go to the battlefield, to museums, to restaurants and shops downtown. My money gets spread around. I like to soak up the ambience of this unique American town, and in the evenings, the quiet. Frankly, I don't see how the local infrastructure could support a project such as that which is proposed. The roads are narrow, hilly, and winding. They would be constantly abuzz with the roar of traffic, day and night. To turn off onto a parking area to actually take in the battlefield would become a hazardous activity. Not only would the infrastructure be overwhelmed, so wouldn't the historic ambience that makes Gettysburg such a great place to visit time and again. If slots are put in, this town would become a place that I would not want to return to... and neither would my money.

As an Army officer, Iraq War veteran, and Civil War Historian, I cannot believe that such a proposal is being considered so close to some of America`s most hallowed ground. By erecting a casino here, which seeks only to literally cash in on the Gettysburg name, we are desecrating the hallowed ground that over fifty thousand Americans consecrated with their last full measure of devotion. The answer here is clear; the casino must be built somewhere else. There are many casinos; however, there is only one Gettysburg.
- CPT James A. Anderson

Please refuse permission to those who would build a casino so close in proximity to the Gettysburg National Battlefield, since to do so would be a direct violation of the sacred trust we have been called upon to protect, in honor of those who fought and died there. Profit is not always the answer...sometimes patriotism trumps it.

Name: **John Morris** State: **GA** County: **Fulton** ID: **2901** RegID: **3089**

Please do not dishonor the sacrifices of thousands of martyrs of freedom. Do not allow a casino anywhere near the Gettysburg battlefield.

Name: **Barry L. Cole** State: **MI** County: **Emmet** ID: **2902** RegID: **3086**

Please, a casino can be built almost anywhere away from the most hallowed ground in our nation`s history.

Name: **Robert Spahr** State: **FL** County: **Manatee** ID: **2907** RegID: **3090**

Please do not desecrate this hallowed land in the name of progress or \$\$\$\$\$\$\$

Name: **Allan g. gauger**

State: **MI**

County: **livingston**

ID: **2909**

RegID: **3092**

What is your opinion about the future of the Gettsburg batterfield and the your reason for commercial development near the battlefield ?

I am shocked that pennsylvania would consider descreating hallowed grounds where so many gave `the last full measure` in defense of the union. Abrham Lincoln is spinning in his grave. Ha Pennsylvania lost all sense of decency?

I oppose the casino as it will destroy the national battfield and park

We have visited the Gettysburg National Battlefield over a dozen times in the past 50 years, and are always affected emotionally by the `spirit` of those who fought and died there. A battlefield is not like a water park, sports arena, race track or shopping mall. A battlefield is not intended to be an `entertaining` experience. Rather, it is intended to honor those who fought there, and to help the visitors understand a crucial part of our American heritage and how the actions on that particular ground helped forge our culture as a nation.

To be truly effective, and respectful, the entire surrounding area must allow visitors to fully concentrate, and emotionally and physically `enter` the battlefield in conditions as close as possible as they were at the time of the battle. While it is impossible to enter a time warp, it is possible to minimize distractions. The city of Gettysburg cannot be expected to be exactly as it was nearly 150 years ago, but the addition of a resort/casino as close as is proposed in this petition represents a major environmental and atmospheric change that can be avoided.

This project could be as successful in drawing guests from Gettysburg if it were located in Harrisburg as it would be where it is proposed.

We respectfully urge that this petition be turned down, and that any future projects also be denied. Let us keep this ground perpetually hallowed - as President Lincoln so declared it to be - and as close to original as possible.

How long will the national treasure that is Gettysburg be threatened with these attempts to desecrate the battlefield and surrounding area with a casino? This is not a question of legality but rather a perversion of the American Heritage that will minimize `The Last Full Measure` by those who wish to take advantage of the sacrifices of those who preserved freedom for all. I've been to Gettysburg; I urge you not to pervert it.

The greater historic area around such compelling sites as battlefields should ideally be kept as near to the time-specific condition as possible.

Although it's understandable that modern property use and business use is expected, such use should be compatible with the surrounding area. A casino, of any type, is not the type of business to be located along the avenue leading to one of the most historic battlefields in American history. Anywhere within Adams County is even inappropriate.

Given the international appeal of what `Gettysburg` stands for, I'm strongly opposed to such venues being permitted.

Name: **John Turchick** State: **CT** County: **Fairfield** ID: **2921** RegID: **3101**

I am strongly opposed to any license to build a casino in or near Gettysburg, the site of the historic and important Civil War battle that helped shape our nation.

Name: **Terry W. Parker** State: **WI** County: **Racine** ID: **2923** RegID: **3103**

I am against the desecration of an historic site by establishing a casino near where 1,000s died.

My Great Great Grandfather died at Andersonville Prison after being captured At North Anna River. I find that it would be a great dis-service to his memory and those who also died for the union that they believed in by building anything on this sacred ground.

I am totally opposed to any casino type gaming within 250 miles of Gettysburg! I am disappointed that it has even got to this stage, it should never have been considered in the first place. This great country has been taken over by greed and thoughtlessness into desecrating hallowed ground that was so valiantly fought over 147 years ago. It`s our history, a place to take the family and take in what our ancestors did to help form this great country. The landscape should never be tainted with such changes that would totally ruin the historical and family oriented context.

Hello,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written comments and the chance to voice my opposition to the plan to put a casino in Gettysburg. Although I am from Virginia, I frequently travel to Pennsylvania for business and pleasure. In fact, I am writing this from the Philadelphia airport, waiting for my delayed flight (an experience many of you likely have shared!).

As stated earlier, I oppose the plan to have a casino located in Gettysburg as I feel it will detract from the Civil War experience that visitors are seeking when they come to Gettysburg.

This is hollowed ground. Do not make a circus out of it.

As a proud descendant of soldiers who fought at the Battle of Gettysburg, I stand in complete opposition to the proposal to establish a Casino in such close proximity to the hallowed ground upon which so many brave men died.

Surely, there are alternate locations available within the State of Pennsylvania for such a gaming operation, that would not detract or demean this priceless national historical treasure.

Do not approve casino for Gettysburg!!!

please do not allow this

We owe respect to the men who fought on both sides of the battle of Gettysburg. They fought for their deeply held convictions, suffering casualty rates far in excess of what today would render a unit combat-ineffective. For once, let us transcend greed and show that we can be as honorable as they were.

Do you think President Eisenhower ever thought that a casino would be located this close to his home?

I realize that it is tough to balance economic development and historic preservation. In this instance preservation is more important. Gettysburg has been described as the exact location of America`s Soul, if is is true then you have a duty to the nation.

Name: **Michael Williams** State: **WA** County: **King** ID: **2949** RegID: **3126**

Do not allow further desecration of our country`s hallowed ground by approving this facility. No casino at Gettysburg!

Putting a casino on the approaches to the battlefield and on the doorstep of the national park, would cheapen and detract from the experience of visiting the battlefield and the town of Gettysburg. It is dishonors the memory of the men of our nation that fought and died there. Moreover there are so many casinos going up all over. Why put in another casino and spoil what you have.

I oppose the building of the resort/casino in the vicinity of the Gettysburg battlefield. I am not a resident of your state; however, I have visited the battlefield twice in the past 15 years and hope that you will preserve and extend the atmosphere of reverence and memorial that exists. Imagine the disparity of these proposed structures and what they represent. Our nearby county of St. Charles has altered the natural beauty of the Missouri and the site of the Lewis and Clark landing with 2 nearby casinos. We are left with 24 hour traffic, garish lights on the riverfront, and the loss of the serenity of our first capital. Please consider preservation of the past as progress for our future. The next generations deserve to experience our country`s past intact. Please continue to honor our heroes in the manner they deserve.

Name: **deanne s. nuwer** State: **MS** County: **Harrison** ID: **2953** RegID: **3127**

Please show some respect and consideration for America`s history and not infringe on the integrity of the Gettysburg battle site. This is hallowed ground and need not have any encroachments on it. Please choose anothe site.

Name: **Karl E. Sundstrom** State: **IL** County: **Cook** ID: **2954** RegID: **3128**

I have visited Gettysburg since 1962 and I believe that a casino situated anywhere near the battlefield is absolutely the wrong thing to do. It would cheapen the historic value and meaning of a seminal place in American history.No to the casino!

The character and soul of a community is determined by what it preserves, protects and cherishes in even the most economically stressed of times. If the hallowed environs of Gettysburg do not merit such consecration, than truly no place can be said to.

Sincerely,
Jeffrey Javid

Name: **Ronald P. Colbert** State: **IL** County: **Will** ID: **2959** RegID: **3134**

Please do not allow the desacration of the Gettysburg Battlefield . This land is as sacred as any in this country . paid for with the blood . Do not allow gaming in this area.

Please do not allow the casino to be built. It will adversely affect the character of the Gettysburg environs. I live within driving distance of Louisiana casinos, and they do not fit in with any sort of historical ambiance. They are flashy and brash, and one like those would definitely not demonstrate any respect for the solemnity that is appropriate for a location that honors the participants in the bloodiest battle of our nation`s history. The thought is simply incongruous and offensive.

My husband is a graduate of Gettysburg College, and I would hate to return to a reunion only to face the loss of atmosphere a casino brings. I could see where crime rates could rise, tourism decrease, and quality of life erode drastically. College students would be exposed to negative influences and perhaps make poor decisions to get involved in gambling that would ruin their lives. The College`s enrollment could drop based on its proximity to a casino because parents don`t want their still-maturing children to be exposed to gambling, even in its mildest form. Altogether there are too many negative possibilities to even consider allowing the casino to be built. It could harm too many aspects of the idyllic life that Gettysburg citizens now enjoy.

Please vote NO! to permitting the casino to be constructed 1/2 mile from Gettysburg.

This is no place for casino.

My father died in action in WWII; and he is honored in the only United States cemetery in the Netherlands. To this day the people of Holland in appreciation for what he did honor him by adopting and caring for his grave.

Don't dishonor the men who fell at Gettysburg by allowing a gambling den within or near the ground these men fought for in the War that preserved our nation. We would not have it today, if not for their sacrifice.

Yours, Douglas R. Earle

I have visited the historic battlefield at Gettysburg and strongly recommend it to my friends as a must-see place. If it becomes another version of Las Vegas or Atlantic City then I will recommend going elsewhere. IO`ve lived in places like Mobile, AL and Omaha, NE, and they have found gambling is NOT a long term viable source for revenues for the local governments. Rather there is always a demand for concessions. Relying upon gambling for local revenues is a losing proposition. As the gambling laws are relaxed there is more competition and less income. Do the analysis for Las Vegas and the other major gambling hubs who are suffering from the overabundance of gambling oppportunities. Gettysburg is one of the premier historical sites in the country and will provide sustained revenue withoutr relying on people with addictions.

Gettysburg Battlefield and the Eisenhower Farm are National treasures, the idea of a casino within the general area is demeaning to the memory of those that fought and died there while bringing more traffic and congestion by visitors that will have no interest in the Parks resources.

The proponents of this scheme are hoping to cash in on the notoriety of the Gettysburg name and central Penn. location. Let some other area that has nothing to lose by allowing a casino to be the recipient.

I strongly Oppose this casino

Two months after the devastation at the World Trade Center in September of 2001, my wife and I visited Gettysburg for the first time. I admit that until that day, I really knew very little about the battle or even much about the history of our country in the Civil War era. In the span of five hours, all of that changed for me. Touring the town and the park struck me with a deep sense of the sacrifice made by so many in an effort to keep this nation free and keep this nation whole.

During our tour, I saw school children on field trips. They too were, quite likely, visiting for the first time. I can only hope and imagine that their visit had as great an impact on them as it did me and that another generation of Americans began to learn about our heritage and our growth. And I can only imagine how wrong it would be for them to associate such a hallowed ground with buses full of tourists going to gamble at a local casino. Somehow the juxtaposition seems so unseemly, so fundamentally wrong.

I urge the Board to move to protect the sanctity of Gettysburg, to act as patriots and declare that the value of a place in our history is so great that commercial interests need leave it alone, for the future, for the future generations of Americans.

Rene` Gandolfi

As a long-time visitor to Gettysburg and a current-day supporter of the NPS efforts to rehabilitate the battlefield, I strongly oppose the idea of dishonoring the American heros who fought there by building a casino nearby. There are plenty of other locales of a non-historic nature that would be suitable for a casino, but not near the Gettysburg battlefield!

I strongly oppose the casino development proposed by Mason-Dixon Resorts, LP since it will be located far too close to one of the most important and sacred national military parks. Part of the concept of `supporting the troops` is honoring their memories, as well. Gettysburg National Military Park is too important to allow encroachment by the casino project, which threatens to reverse the trend of preserving and restoring this hallowed ground. As a Vietnam veteran, I am particularly sensitive to maintaining and protecting a site where so many sacrificed their lives or their health for causes in which they believed. Please vote to oppose the casino development.

Respectfully yours,

Jerry Halstead

As an out-of-state visitor to Gettysburg, I would like to urge you to deny the application for a casino near this historic battlefield. I have travelled to the battlefield many times, and have never left without feeling moved by the sacrifice our ancestors made on that field. A casino in the vicinity of this historic spot would detract from the sacredness of that site. Put your casino elsewhere, but not near this irreplaceable marker to our country`s greatest conflict.

There are not enough words to properly describe why this proposed atrocity is even being seriously contemplated. Suffice to say that the people that think this is an acceptable idea should be given a dictionary and told to look up the words disgraceful, shameful, and perhaps ignorant.....to start. This utter sign of disrespect must not be allowed to happen.

When will our society say enough is enough? You can show others by your actions that the sacrifices of our brave ancestors and fellow countrymen are not forgotten - that we value everything that they did to help preserve our country and the principles upon which it was founded. You wouldn't dream of taking your proposals and plans and convert them to the land upon which the White House and Capital building occupy. So why would you consider destroying this important piece of land where others fought to preserve our way of life? If you proceed with what you want to do then what message are you giving to the youth of our country? Please consider doing the right thing for ALL AMERICANS and ensure that future generations will never forget what they did there.

Name: **Kathleen J. Brewer** State: **IL** County: **Bond** ID: **2985** RegID: **3151**

Please do not put a casino anywhere near the Gettysburg Battlefield. It is unique to the American experience, and should be kept pristine. A casino can be anywhere; the battlefield cannot. Don't impinge on us tourists from other states who want to keep the solemnity and sanctity of the battlefield intact. Vote against the casino in this location!

Name: **Ken J. Dahl** State: **ny** County: **nassau** ID: **2988** RegID: **3152**

No casino near Gettysburg!! Pennsylvania is a huge state and there are certainly more appropriate locations for such a thing.

Ken

Name: **George Snider** State: **WV** County: **Berkeley** ID: **2989** RegID: **3153**

Please vote against any gambling facility in the area of the Gettysburg NBP. This is not the kind of business that should profit from the historical importance of the Gettysburg battlefield.

Name: **Angela J. Bell** State: **PA** County: **Dauphin** ID: **2991** RegID: **3154**

I oppose all future gambling establishments in PA. WE do not live in Nevada. What is next, legalized prostitution and open container laws? Please do not allow any more casinos to be built in PA. I hate the idea of this one more than the rest. Keep Gettysburg sacred and honor the sacrifices made there.

I am in favor of the Casino because the county needs the jobs and the tax relief that will be received through the revenue it receives. There may be some impact to the community, but it will be more than offset by the benefits.

I have lived in the immediate area of the proposed casino all of my life and am able to live with the changes in order to help our county and in particular, Cumberland Township.

This proposal is not in the best interest of the area due to it`s location near Gettysburg battlefield. This area is hallowed ground.

Name: **Stephanie L. Rishel** State: **Oh** County: **Muskingum** ID: **2997** RegID: **3161**

Please do not ruin the land that bring so much history to our nation.

The presence of a casino this close to the battlefield threatens the heritage of Americans yet to be born. Arguably the most sacred battlefield in the United States, Gettysburg deserves special protection from development and encroachment.

the developer and civil authorities insult this country with the tawdriness of their plans.

Gentlemen: I take this opportunity to enter my extreme opposition to the approval of Mason-Dixon Resorts application to receive a gaming license near the boundaries of Gettysburg National Military Park. I believe the construction of this facility will detract greatly to the `family` type atmosphere I have felt when visiting and that the people of Gettysburg strive to create. I see no need to add further to the decline of American morals by creating more opportunities to throw away money needlessly. I see no need for developers, who see only dollar signs, to desecrate grounds upon which our ancestors spilt their lives blood. Let them build their operation somewhere else; Coudersport may be an excellent site. Several years ago, the opposition to this project was voiced long and loud by the citizens of Gettysburg, citizens of Pennsylvania, and other concerned Americans. I can detect no change in that opposition now!! Mason-Dixon Resorts claim of job creation is just a ploy to attract peoples emotions. Sure, their project will undoubtedly create jobs, but only low to middle paying service jobs. The few high paying, technologically based jobs will, in my humble opinion, surely go to out of state people that relocate to the area. To paraphrase Mr. Abraham Lincoln`s, `Let us go forth and FINISH this noble endeavor` by denying this application for a facility that is totally out of character with that of the surrounding region! Thank you!

I feel that a casino near the Gettysburg battlefield is a historical desecration. I think there is a growing trend in this country to forget our past and therefore people are doing everything possible to get rid of it. The Civil War was possibly the most pivotal conflict in our nations brief existence. It established the United States as we know it today. It is vital that we preserve the integrity of the Gettysburg battlefield and not allow a casino to be built in such close proximity to the most hallowed ground in this country. Stop trying to eliminate our past by building up around it until it no longer exists.

Name: **David Barenfeld** State: **PA** County: **Beaver** ID: **3008** RegID: **3168**

This area is a hallowed battleground of national historical and moral significance to all Pennsylvanians and Americans. It should NOT be desecrated by the near proximity of a gambling hall.

I understand the needs for jobs. Both of my children have been laid off from their positions. While I don't oppose a casino and the jobs it could bring, I oppose WHERE the casino plans to be. If Gettysburg were not the visitor attraction that it is, would Mason-Dixon have even considered the location? Our history must be protected and not minimized by greed.

The casino is not a local or state issue. It is a national issue: Gettysburg National Military Park belongs to the entire country--note the word `national` in the park`s official title. Would you consider putting a casino right next to Independence Hall? Your board is voting on a casino that--if put in place--will have national and international repercussions and the nation will be outraged.

This issue has aroused so much controversy that that factor alone should be heavily weighed in the decision-making process. If you vote for the casino, future generations will question the PGCB`s wisdom by asking, `What were they thinking?`

Please vote NO. National park boundaries should not be taken into account because Gettysburg belongs to every American citizen.

Over the years, I have visited Gettysburg numerous times. I am in awe of the historical significance of the area and visit in honor of those who fell during the battle defending what they believe in. I am not against gambling, in fact, I am also an avid gambler, but I am thoroughly opposed to a casino in Gettysburg. I can't believe this would be allowed. There are some things you don't do, and to desecrate this area with a casino in my opinion is an utter travesty. I can't understand why this is even happening. There are many other places not so close to Gettysburg that a casino could be built and could possibly still only be within 30 or 40 minutes away if the casinos want to catch the tourist visiting Gettysburg. If a casino does go in, I will probably not visit as much. A casino will take what happened at Gettysburg a little further away from its historical significance and memories will fade a little more about what this battle really meant and where its place was in our country's history. Please come to your senses and vote against allowing this casino to be built. Please do not sully an event bigger than all of us for a few pieces of gold.

I am a descendant of General Alexander Webb. The General who held the center of the Union Line on Cemetary Ridge during Pickett`s Charge. In his memory and in the interest of future generations of Americans I strongly oppose the building of any and all casinos on and within visible site of this hallowed ground. There is adequate available land for such a facility in many other areas with much larger populations to sustain such a business.

Gettysburg Battlefield is a national treasure and a hallowed place that has been honored by the local community in its past expansion and development. Anyone who visits the site can feel the sense of history and importance of saving this area from the desecration that would come from having a casino cheapen and mar this historic landscape. Do not allow the development of this type of business to occur.

Name: **David J. Reifinger**

State: **SC**

County: **Sumter**

ID: **3016**

RegID: **3183**

Gettysburg should be a place to learn and show respect to our ancestors who fought to preserve our country. Gambling will only lead to a loss of history and heritage.

Please consider another location away from Civil War Battlefields. Please consider the men who fought and died on and near Gettysburg. This is hallowed ground.

Perhaps you had a distant relative that died in this war - He would want you to be respectful to the preservation of this land. Thank You for your consideration in this matter.

Beverly Cummings

I am from England, but I own a house in Adams County and I pay my taxes there, so I speak with two hats on.

I'm the Editor of several historical publications, with readerships in the 10s of 1000s, residing across the globe. One focuses on the Living History scene, Skirmish Magazine and another is the Civil War Campaigner. We have hear from 100s of readers at how stunned they are that a casino at Gettysburg was even thought of. They have written to us and opposed it completely.

I'm also a member of several reenactment groups here in the UK and US, our members also oppose it.

To keep this point short, the point I'm getting at, is this has become an internationally infamous issue, with 1000s showing their opposition.

How can the PGCB answer to 100s or 1000s world wide if they decide to place the casino at Gettysburg.

I'm in touch with many tourists that visit the area, they are history people, family people, not gambling people.

It would not be a wise business decision to allow this casino to be placed in such a hallowed and famous area...whose existing visitors are not the right target audience for a casino!

I attended the hearing - I came all the way from England with my other half... I think this say how much we oppose the idea of a casino anywhere near Gettysburg.

Please do choose a wiser option - not Gettysburg! It is hallowed and needs to remain so.

Rachel Evans
Managing Director
Dragoon Publishing Ltd
Skirmish Magazine
Civil War Campaigner Magazine
Battlefield Magazine (Battlefields Trust UK)

Just because Gettysburg is a well-traveled tourist area doesn't mean that we dis-honor those soldiers who fought for their lives in this area. A place in the surrounding area would also draw your people and still preseve what Gettysburg stands for in history.

Name: **Louis H. Mayer**

State: **Pa**

County: **Centre**

ID: **3023**

RegID: **3192**

I believe that this complex will degrade the Gettysburg National Military Park, and should not be built and/or considered.

It is our duty as citizens to preserve our heritage. Building a casino anywhere near the Gettysburg Battlefield will cause the significance of this hallowed ground to be diminished. We cannot allow that to happen.

Name: **Kenneth A. Chrestman**

State: **TN**

County: **Shelby**

ID: **3025**

RegID: **3190**

I oppose this application on the grounds it is inappropriate in the proximity to Gettysburg Battlefield. My opposition is simple our family lost five (5) ancestors in Barksdale's and Davis Brigades on this hallowed ground, please keep it sacred as a tribute to all Americans.

Thanks for your consideration;

Kenneth A. Chrestman, Tennessee

This is not a good choice for a casino. I was 10 years old the first time I went to Gettysburg, my memories are stark and very memorable. I stopped there again when I was on my honeymoon, My wife and I enjoyed the somber reality of the atmosphere. I want to always have that available, not only for my kids, but every person interested in the history of Our great Nation. I have been around casinos and they are not conducive to a somber stark reality of what our forefathers did here.

A Casino at Gettysburg National Military Park? I am a US Army veteran - a paratrooper with combat experience. I must admit that I find myself wondering why we are even having this discussion. So let me be plain about my sincere desire to see this proposal die.

The Gettysburg National Military Park is a shrine to those who fought and fell during the the most important battle in American history. Visiting this hallowed place is a magical experience for those who understand the true value of what was offered up and achieved there. MGen Joshua Chamberlain (medal of honor winner, hero of Little Round Top) spoke about it more elegantly than I can when he stated during an 1889 ceremony for the monument to the 20th Maine:

‘In great deeds something abides. On great fields something stays. Forms change and pass; bodies disappear; but spirits linger, to consecrate ground for the vision-place of souls. And reverent men and women from afar, and generations that know us not and that we know not of, heart-drawn to see where and by whom great things were suffered and done for them, shall come to this deathless field, to ponder and dream; and lo! the shadow of a mighty presence shall wrap them in its bosom, and the power of the vision pass into their souls.’

It is this very experience that will be noticeably and shamefully diminished by the establishment of a gambling casino 1/2 mile from the battlefield. Its presence would alter the very nature of the community and adversely impact the experience of visitors who travel from across the globe to Gettysburg seeking to learn more about this singular time in our nation’s history.

It is for this reason that I strongly condemn any attempt to issue a license to build a casino in or near the park at Gettysburg. This truly is hallowed ground and deserves better treatment. Please vote NO against the destruction of a national treasure enjoyed by thousands of Adams County residents and by more than one million annual visitors. Please vote NO to preserve the special nature and experience of a trip to this amazing place.

Respectfully, Bill Wood.

It would be a disgrace to allow a casino to be built in the proximity of such sacred ground!

I have visited the Gettysburg battlefield twice and hope to visit many more times. I also visit casinos and have no problem with them. I do have a problem with building one so close to such a beautiful, important, and moving historical area. I am sure a suitable location could be found a little further away.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my opinion regarding the Mason-Dixon Resorts, LP, application for a gaming license near the Gettysburg National Military Park. It is a testament to our political process of participation available to all.

While I appreciate the need of local communities to maintain a vibrant economy, especially in such times of turmoil, officials must balance that need with larger interests and a longer view. Gettysburg holds a special, if not unique place, in American history and culture. It marks one of the most recognizable turning points in the American Civil War and has been commemorated and celebrated for this ever since. Each year, millions travel to Gettysburg to walk the ground where these events occurred and which is imbued with the energy and sacrifices of participants. Preservation of the battlefield and its environs is key to maintaining this communion with those events and participants. Having a casino located nearby would produce a jarring dissonance, reducing the impact of the experience and thereby diminishing the legacies of the participants.

For this reason, I offer my opposition to the proposed Mason-Dixon Resorts, LP, casino in Gettysburg. Other locations should be considered, and other solutions to maintain the vibrancy of the local economy should be found.

Of all the fields of conflict in America Gettysburg is undoubtedly the most memorialized, most respected, and most visited. The addition of a casino in such close proximity to hallowed ground serves to denigrate and trivialize the memory of those who fought, shed precious blood, and died in the defining struggle of our Nation. The surrounding woods, hills, and meadows have been sanctified and consecrated by the blood of thousands, which distinctly sets Gettysburg apart from most villages which lie across this grand land.

No matter how respectful of the area the casino owners might promise to be, the placement of it in and of itself brings a stain of tawdriness to what is an American shrine, perhaps the preeminent monument to the struggle for freedom and liberty in this country.

As a veteran I respectfully ask that the PGCB should consider this when making its decision; hopefully the decision to deny the cheapening of a cenotaph of America for the mere possibility of profit.

The veterans of this conflict, no matter what side they were on would join ranks to stop this disrespectful action.

People died for a cause and someone wants to put a casino on such hallowed ground. As a war veteran myself, I feel a kinship with all those who have given all to keep our union together. This is not the place for a casino. The beautiful town of Gettysburg should not be mistreated so.

Please find a different place

Please do not desecrate this hallowed ground at Gettysburg by allowing this casino. There is no more significant struggle for Americans than the Civil War & Gettysburg is the `high tide` of our nation`s struggle. No place is more sacred. A casino can be built in so many other places, please do not disrespect the place that so many fought & died to shape our nation to what it is today.

There are several better locations for a casino than the Gettysburg area. The town will lose its quaintness as well as the casino crowd being detrimental to the sacred battlefields around the town.

Gettysburg is rich in history and a great tourist spot. There is no need for gambling or it`s greed in the area. You can say it`s for the kids or whatever. What if a man comes home after being out all night drinking and gambling, and tells his wife that he has blown all the family money, but at least it went for schools and kids, will that be acceptable? We have an illegal gaming facility in our area, the owner gave less than 1% to charity in 2009. Greed and corruption fuel gambling, not to mention it is Biblical wrong.

There are plenty of locations throughout Adams County, as well as Pennsylvania and even the entire United States, that are well suited to a gaming establishment. However, on the very border of a national treasure such as Gettysburg is not one of those locations. The work done to preserve and restore the region to its 1863 appearance in the recent past has shown the regard with which the region and the country holds this location. To bring in an establishment that will at best increase the traffic through already congested areas (Emmitsburg Road, etc.) and at worst bring the aspects of life that Atlantic City, Las Vegas and other such regions wish they could do away with, is not worth the risk. It is far easier, makes much more sense, and will be much better for all concerned on both sides, if the casino were built somewhere else.

There must bne neough places for people to gamble. Find one that is not on sacred ground.

I would like to go on record that I oppose this proposal on the grounds that gaming will negatively impact the local community. Please put our communities - their infrastructure, environment and economy first.

Name: **Claire J. Watchorn**

State: **PA**

County: **Cheshire**

ID: **3049**

RegID: **3195**

Once the land is lost it can never be restored!

I have visited the battle field frequently as I have an ancestor who fought there. Please do not put a gambling facility there. I believe that you will decrease your tourism not increase it. I would be much less interested in going there for a gambling atmosphere. Thank you.

Gettysburg is no place for a casino!

Come to Britain! We could do with the jobs!

If you would not build a casino in your loved ones` cemetery, next to the Metropolitan Museum in New York, or on the White House lawn, don`t do it here. This ground was watered by the blood of too many Americans to allow any group to take advantage of its fame to make an easy buck. I have visited Gettysburg and know how it used to be.

Name: **Jane A. Hamm** State: **Al** County: **Madison** ID: **3064** RegID: **3217**

My husband and I oppose the casino near the Gettysburg Battlefield. Such location would show a TOTAL lack of respect for the lives lost there and for a cherished national monument.

The Gettysburg site is more valuable to our nation than anything you could ever construct on this hallowed ground.

The memory of the men who fought and died at Gettysburg, including members of my family, should not be desecrated by a casino and the negative aspects which always accompany casinos. Please defeat this facility and honor our history.

Name: **Roger L. Shaller**

State: **NY**

County: **broome**

ID: **3073**

RegID: **3222**

No gambling near battlefield where thousands died or suffered.

Name: **Dennis E.. Ross** State: **in** County: **Vigo** ID: **3075** RegID: **3221**

No slots !

Please do not dishonor the memory of those who gave the ultimate sacrifice by giving their lives to preserve this country! A gambling casino so close to the battleground would make of mockery of their sacrifice!

There should be no gaming facility anywhere near the Gettysburg Battlefield!

I have no problem with casino`s or those who support gaming interests. But I think the locale for this casino goes above and beyond what is right. Surely there are other areas that are less historic where a casino could be built. Don`t desecrate the battlefield at Gettysburg!

This whole area of Adams County, is Hallow Ground, Men died here for there beliefs right or wrong. These were American men fighting each other, for there own reason . So many gave there lives here for there beliefs, I think for this reason you should not put a gambling casino anywhere near this honored place. My Grandfather Willis Francis Marion Edwards fought here, he did not die here, he was lucky. Leave this place to honor the dead and living. We the family`s of the fallen will not for get them and why they fought
we truly will never know. But give them Grace and Honor they deserve. I`m born and raised A Southern Man, I respect those that went before me, I`m glad that some lived so that we can protect there Honor

Name: **Bill Chandler** State: **GA** County: **Cobb** ID: **3097** RegID: **3260**

I am so opposed to allowing a casino to be built so close to the Gettysburg Battlefield. This is sacred ground. We don't need a casino to lure people to Gettysburg. Please vote against this proposal.

Name: **Tom Parsons** State: **LA** County: **East Baton Rouge Parish** ID: **3099** RegID:
3261

STOP all commercial development near the memorials to the American Civil war

Name: **William C. Yankowsky** State: **Tx** County: **Wharton** ID: **3102** RegID: **3258**

I am against gambling on or next to Civil War Battlefields. These battlefields are Hallowed Ground. The developer should be able to find a more appropriate place without having to desecrate our historical land.

I am opposing the building of this casino in the Gettysburg area. I am a civil war reenactor- we honor the sacrifices of all those who fought in that war. Putting a casino there would be akin to locating a whorehouse in a churchyard. It would destroy the ambience and serenity of this sacred area as well as the livelihood of so many who depend on historic tourism. Only a few would profit from it`s ill gotten gains. Casinos profit on the addictions of others. If you must pursue this venture, please go elsewhere because no one wants you near this sacred ground. Read Lincoln`s Gettysburg Address and you will understand what this place means to real Americans and what you plan on destroying.

Name: **Jake Butler**

State: **GA**

County: **Rockdale**

ID: **3107**

RegID: **3266**

How could such a beautiful and hisorical place need any help to make it more attractive ? NO TO CASINOS !!!

Name: **David Byrne** State: **IL** County: **Cook** ID: **3110** RegID: **3267**

Please--NO CASINO FOR GETTYSBURG!

Name: **peter zaidel** State: **ct** County: **middlesex** ID: **3116** RegID: **3270**

I am against a casino on the Hallowed ground of Gettysburg. Please keep the casino out of Gettysburg.

I urge all people to oppose the licensing of gaming anywhere near the historic Battlefield or town of Gettysburg. This is sacred and hallowed ground, important to our history, and should not be desicrated by allowing gaming anywhere near it.

I have been to Gettysburg many times, the first time in 1963. For me, a casino in the Gettysburg area would contaminate the real meaning of the hallowed grounds on which the most decisive battle for the union of the United States was waged. Should we allow a casino to be constructed and then change our mind, it may take years for that casino to be removed (remember the observation tower on the Eisenhower farm). To prevent that possibility, don't construct the casino in the first place !

I love Gettysburg and am a civil war reinactor. I had made plans to retire in Gettysburg for the peace as much as for the quality of life which includes young people and old. I lives in Vegas for 14 years and I didn`t gamble when I lived there and I for sure will not gamble in any casino near Gettysburg.

Name: **Jeffery J. Reimers**

State: **NE**

County: **Seward**

ID: **3130**

RegID: **3281**

The idea of building such a facility in such close proximity to this hallowed ground is simply offensive!

No Casino in Gettysburg....it is a historical town and should be preserved in memory of all the soldiers!

Please protect the historical legacy of our nation.

Gambling is a poor substitute for the educational value of some of our country`s most historic land.

Please save the integrity of the Gettysburg battlefield!

Please decline the request for a casino license near the Gettysburg National Military Park. We are working hard to return the battlefield to its original 1863 appearance and having a Casino in the area is not the type of business that we need there. While Myself Gamble, I find it easily accessible to visit The casinos in Harrisburg, and Philadelphia and the surrounding areas. Gettysburg is not a place that we need another Casino.

New York regiments from Onondaga County fought valiantly at Gettysburg. Their sacrifice should be properly remembered and contemplated by visitors, not disrupted by a competing, gambling resort environment. Any gambling resort should be placed in another part of the county where it would draw its own clientele to its own venue without taking away from Gettysburg and other civil war sites.

I do not feel it is appropriate to have casinos on hallowed ground.

Do not build a casino in or near Gettysburg

Please no casino near Gettysburg. William Magargle

No Casino! Save the battlefield of Gettysburg!

Name: **Catherine Gaugler** State: **VA** County: **Fairfax** ID: **3151** RegID: **3300**

As a former resident of Pennsylvania, I strongly oppose permitting a gambling facility near the most important Civil War battlefield in our country.

The idea of constructing and operating a gambling casino at Gettysburg or its close proximity is poorly conceived and would be a blot on our national conscience. It would desecrate the `hallowed ground` consecrated by the 51,000 brave Americans who `(t)here gave their lives that (this) nation might live`.

Name: **Richard G. Walker**

State: **FL**

County: **Collier**

ID: **3156**

RegID: **3302**

Don't approve this ridiculous proposal. This land is special and should be free of this type of commercial and corruptable elements!

Gettysburg is perhaps the most meaningful place in the nation for Americans. It is a place that deserves respect and dignity, to honor those who offered their lives for our country.

A casino would cheapen Gettysburg, and compromise its place in the national consciousness.

As thousands and thousands of soldiers stood firm for an honorable cause, we must stand firmly against this travesty.

Please honor the hallowed ground in question and do not construct any facility at this site.

I feel that it is a grave mistake to allow a casino to be built near Gettysburg. Gettysburg draws a large number of tourist to the area, but these tourist consists most often of families; families with young children. I can see families changing their plans about spending time and money in the Gettysburg region to avoid the casion.

We must be vigilant in keeping a Casino from opening. We must honor those that have come before. Unless we learn from history we are bound to repeat it. It did not work in the past and will not be supported in the future,

Name: **vincent myers** State: **ny** County: **dutchess** ID: **3171** RegID: **3311**

a casino on hallowed ground by our honored dead is a travesty. do not allow a casino anywhere near sacred american ground

Our children are having a hard enough time learning about American history as it is, with it constantly being rewritten, shortened or just plain deleted from textbooks, lectures and presentations in schools. If we tread on these monuments and memorials, not only are we disrespecting deceased soldiers who made it possible for us to be living as we are today, we leave our children and their children ignorant of our past and more importantly, the lessons learned from events like the American Revolution and the Civil War. People, please think about what you are doing!

Don` t build a casino so close to hallowed ground - we need to preserve this land AND it`s story. This is where America became UNITED states.....and a casino doesn`t tell that story.

The Gettysburg National Battlefield, with perhaps very few exceptions, may very well be the most sacred and cherished ground in all of America. It is where the very fate of our nation was decided in a epic battle between two of the most legendary armies that ever existed. I am proud to say that my ancestor, Charles Jones, fought with the 2nd New Hampshire Regiment at the Peach Orchard, where many of his comrades-in-arms lost their lives and remain buried in the cemetery nearby. When I visit the battlefield and walk the same places where these brave men fought and died, the thought of building a casino near this hallowed ground is abhorrent to me. There is little doubt that Gettysburg is a thriving town; that its economy has benefited exponentially from the bloody history which surrounds it. But does Gettysburg really need a casino? Where does the greed end? How much more money and profit can be squeezed out the fact that thousands of men died or were maimed for life upon the beautiful rolling fields and hills of Pennsylvania so that future generations could be free? Is this what they fought for? Simply put, there are many places to build a place where people will gamble their money and lives away, but Gettysburg should never be one of them!

I was born and raised in Dauphin County. Seven of my ancestors fought for Pennsylvania in the Civil War--one was wounded in the Wheatfield at Gettysburg. I rise in opposition to the petition from Maso-Dixon Resorts to build a casion complex in Gettysburg. This is hallowed ground that must be preserved for future generations. PA has sixty-seven counties--find someplace else.

Jim Sheaffer

To whom it may concern:

I am a retired Army NCO who cannot understand how some have taken a view that a memorial is an ethical drawing point for a casino. The thousands of Soldiers and Civilians who fought at Gettysburg deserve a better marker than a casino. Building a casino adjacent to the battlefield is akin to protesting a funeral- it cheapens the sacrifice of those who did NOT choose to travel there for entertainment in July. I was taught as a young Soldier to honor those who went before us and to value their deeds; a casino does neither of those.

Sirs,

Even though those men died in 1863, they were my brothers. Please allow us to honor them . No Casino!

Respectfully,

Steve Voigt

I oppose the building of this facility so close to the Gettysburg National Military Park. Already, so much of our heritage and hallowed ground has been turned into commercial businesses, malls, housing developments, retail strip centers, etc. If we allow this to continue to happen, then our grandchildren and their children will no longer be able to see those places where our history was made and where men fought and died to preserve our country and our freedoms. While I realize that the casino is not proposed to be within the boundaries of the park, it is, nevertheless, so close to the park that the resulting traffic and associated development will negatively impact not only upon the park but also on those who would visit the park. If the casino were located 25 or more miles away from the park, I would not oppose it.

The names of few places in America call instantly to mind the concepts of struggle, heroism, sacrifice, and bravery as does Gettysburg. It is the site upon which the preservation of our Union was secured. It must not be desecrated by construction of a casino.

Do not dishonor the dead of Gettysburg. Save the battlefield. Casinos can be built anywhere. There is only one Gettysburg battlefield.

No Gaming!!!

Name: **John R. Wilhoite**

State: **AL**

County: **Madison**

ID: **3205**

RegID: **3340**

Is the nation`s past of no consequence to its future? Have we finally arrived at the point that profit (and tax revenue) always trumps principal? Is nothing sacred anymore?

Board Members,

As an avid supporter of the preservation of Civil War sites, I find the prospect of a casino located within a 1/2 mile of part of the battlefield disheartening.

Since `96 when I made my first visit to Gettysburg, I have returned four times to walk the hallowed ground. There is simply no other place in this country, where the beauty of the landscape is overshadowed only by the weight of the historical events that occurred there in July of 1863.

The battlefield represents the turning point of the war. Not only the high water mark of the Confederacy, but also where this country was saved from the fate of forever existing as a fractured collection of individual regions. Surely the memory of the men that died there, on both sides, is worth more than the revenue and the jobs that will be generated by a casino.

Is there no where else nearby where the casino can be constructed and operated that isn't so near, or possibly sitting on, hallowed ground?

Please consider my request that you vote No for the approval of this casino.

It would sadden me the next time I visit if my experience of the peaceful and serene rolling fields where Pickett charged for the copse of trees; the steep and craggy slopes of Little Round Top; a walk along the stone wall where General Lewis Armistead was struck down after penetrating the Union Line, if these were in any way impacted by the construction and presence of something so out of place.

Please vote No.

Sincerely,
George W. `Bill` Ringle, History Lover
Blairsville, GA 30512

I feel a casino is poor use of land in a historic area. The history there should not be down graded to just a tourist trap as Disney in Florida! This field represents this Nation and its struggle to become the nation it is! Turning it into Little Vegas will only deepen the World out look of us decadent Americans chasing the greed AT ALL COST. We can let our heritage pass away. I have heard on bloggs, the coment that Mcdonalds is there. Maybe, but we have the ability to say our ancesters that allowed the Mcdonalds mistake was wrong, and we, our generation respects more.

I hope you let history go untouched as it should.

Thank you,

Jeff

`I have frequently been invited to go over the battlefield of Gettysburg, but I could never summon the courage to do so. If I were to go over the line of our charge I would say, Here fell Captain Green; Here fell Captain Bisell; Here fell Captain Grayson; Here fell Captain Ayres - and a host of others. It would nearly kill me to see where so many brave men fell - all of them among the best friends I ever had. `

Eppa Hunton

And you people want to put a casino in that vicinity? Absolutely, beyond any shadow of a doubt, the most fatheaded, boneheaded, dunderheaded, blunderheaded, muttonheaded, knuckleheaded, chuckleheaded, puddingheaded, jobernowled wash-out of a cock-up that I've ever heard. About anything. Anywhere. And in this era that`s saying quite a bit.

This is in lieu of our written letter dated 10/27.2010 which will be mailed on 10/28/2010 but may not reach the PGCB by November 1, 2010.

October 27, 2010

Pa Gaming Control Board
PO Box 69060
Harrisburg, PA 17106-9060
attn: Board Secretary

Dear Sirs,

On behalf of the Executive Board and 22 members of the 149th Pennsylvania Bucktails Volunteer Infantry re-enactment unit, and the 162 men and women of the 149th Pennsylvania Bucktails Descendants Association, of which I am also the founder and Chairman of, we wish to register our total protest and opposition to the PA Gaming Control Board granting a Category 3 Slots License to Daivd LeVan and his Mason Dixon Casino.

When we objected to his casino attempt in 2005 we stated a casino has no 'business' in Gettysburg, let alone next to the hallowed ground of that battlefield where the Union was preserved. Our objections remain today and are even stronger.

On the evening of June 30th, 1863 the 149th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry camped approximately a half mile from the Eisenhower Inn, LeVan's proposed casino site. For many of those brave Bucktails it was their final night on this earth. The next day, July 1st, 1863, the regiment suffered severe losses in the first days battle on McPherson's Ridge in Gettysburg. Some of those honorable men are buried in the Soldier's National Cemetery right up the road from the Eisenhower Inn.

There is no place for a casino in Gettysburg. Let someone else build it someplace else.

Thank you,

Mr. Thomas P. Reilley
531 High Rock Road
Fitchburg, MA 01420-1554
978.342.2765

Chairman of the Executive Board, and 1st SGT, 149th PA Volunteer Infantry
Founder and Chairman, 149th PA Bucktails Descendants Association.

After serving our country in the U.S. Army for over 40 years, my husband and I chose to retire just west of Gettysburg three years ago. We chose this area because of its national historic significance and small-town atmosphere. We were extremely happy when the proposed LeVan casino license was denied in 2007 and were then devastated that he proposed the new location, once again in very close proximity to the battlefield. We implore you to reject this Mason-Dixon proposal. There are other locations that can serve the purpose well without dishonoring the legacy of the battle of Gettysburg.

Name: **Douglas E. Mowrey**

State: **PA**

County: **Beaver**

ID: **3216**

RegID: **3350**

I urge you not to allow those lands surrounding Gettysburg to fall victim to a casino and all of its inherent footprints. To allow a casino to be built on and about hallowed ground is a disgrace, dishonors those that fought there, and would violate the sanctity of the area.

what are you---stupid or somethin`

I am from the UK and a regular visitor to Gettysburg, I just feel that to build a casino so close to this most prestigious site, seems to be a disrespectful and immoral act. Please respect the men involved in this conflict and especial on the days around Gettysburg for they gave their all to save your country, so you should give all to save their dignity.

To build this gaming resort on such hallowed ground is a travesty show some not only respect for the fallen from both sides, but our national heritage. On this ground in July 1-3, 1863 was the bloodiest battle ever fought on US soil , and it was not against foreign enemies, but amongst ourselves which is period that should never ever be forgotten. To build this gaming resort on other ground around Gettysburg other than the battfield i would not oppose it but on the battlefield I say **NO WAY NOT ON OUR WATCH!**

Name: **William G. Bosworth** State: **MD** County: **Baltimore** ID: **3229** RegID: **3366**

I STRONGLY OPPOSE any entertainment complex being developed in and/or around Gettysburg National Park.

I support this business venture because of the jobs that will be brought to our community. With our unemployment at a 25 year high, as in most communities we can certainly use these jobs as well as the 100 jobs that will be saved at the current Eisenhower Inn.

I would like to point out that this location in Cumberland Township is, in my opinion the best place to put this last available license. We have a lot to offer that will draw visitors to Adams County and every visitor to Adams County is a potential Mason Dixon customer.

Just in Adams County we have over 25 hotels/motels offering over 1500 rooms, not counting those at the Eisenhower Inn, and not including several hotels and motels in Maryland within 15 miles of this location, and there are many bed and breakfast in and around Adams County.

We have in Adams County well over 100 eating establishments from fast food to high end dining facilities and everything in between including franchise establishments and locally owned and operated eating places.

We offer shopping at local establishments as well as the outlets.

Adams County has a ski resort and 9 public golf courses that bring visitors to our community already and many of these people will also visit Mason Dixon.

Adams county has many events seasonally that bring people into the community, such as APPLE BLOSSOM FESTIVAL;
GETTYSBURG BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL;
History Meets the Arts and a Brass Band Weekend;
PENNSYLVANIA LAVENDER FESTIVAL;
NEW OXFORD OUTDOOR ANTIQUE SHOW;
GETTYSBURG ANNIVERSARY REENACTMENTS;
GETTYSBURG BIKE WEEK;
ADAMS COUNTY IRISH FESTIVAL;
SOUTH MOUNTAIN FAIR;
Littlestown Good Old days;
GETTYSBURG MUSIC MUSTER;
EAST BERLIN COLONIAL DAY;
EISENHOWER WORLD WAR II WEEKEND;
ADAMS COUNTY HERITAGE FESTIVAL;
FAIRFIELD PIPPINFEST;
APPLE HARVEST FESTIVAL;
REMEMBRANCE DAY; And
GETTYSBURG HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES.

And this list does not include events offered by our neighbors in Hanover, and Frederick County Maryland.

In addition Adams County and Gettysburg get much of the over flow from the Carlisle Car shows because they don't have enough lodging to accommodate the people attending them.

According to the 2008 Traffic survey the Rt 15 By-pass has between 18,000 to 23,000 vehicles per day and Rt 30 has between 11,000 to 16,000 per day, these are all potential visitors to Mason Dixon

Name: **jackie butera** State: **fl** County: **lake** ID: **3232** RegID: **3369**

There should not be a casino here, its a resting place for American soldiers

Casinos, like the Lottery, are a tax on stupid people. Your local social services costs will go up because people are gambling away their rent and food money. A casino will attract a criminal element-raising local costs of law enforcement. Local businesses will suffer from a loss of foot traffic-resulting in lay offs and local business closures. Add all this to desecrating the Hallowed Ground of Gettysburg--a casino is a losing proposition !

Name: **Enrica Dalessandro** State: **NJ** County: **Bergen County** ID: **3237** RegID:
3376

I am writing to state that I am opposing any casinos in the Gettysburg/Adams County area.

I have been visiting the beautiful town of Gettysburg since 1999, and would hate to see it become an Atlantic City type area.

Name: **Daniel J. Dalessandro** State: **NJ** County: **Bergen County** ID: **3238** RegID:
3378

No casino in Gettysburg.

A gaming establishment at this sacred, hallowed location, which is not only a significant piece of American history, but also the place where men gave their lives in sacrifice of what they believed, would be a slap in the face to our ancestors and an embarrassing legacy to leave for future generations.

This would be tantamount to sacrilege and is as inappropriate as a mosque (or any other religious edifice) would be at ground zero in NYC.

Let's show ourselves and the world that we still have some fabric of decency and national pride left in our society.

Please do not allow a casino at Gettysburg.

Name: **David V. Dalessandro** State: **NJ** County: **Bergen County** ID: **3240** RegID:
3379

I am against putting a casino in Gettysburg. It is hallowed ground and a place to preserve our country`s history.

NO CASINO INGETTYSBURG

Name: **Janae L. Thompson** State: **NJ** County: **Mercer** ID: **3241** RegID: **3380**

I oppose a casino being built so close to the Gettysburg battlefield. This is sacred and historical ground and should not be tampered with.

I jut want to say that I did not wish to have any say in the Casino. A friend of mine did not realize how I felt when they said that I would speak that night. And had they known that just by signing me up to speak that night it would be considered a vote they would not have done so. I just don't see how that is a legal way of doing things. I could have just choose a bunch of names out of the phone book and said that they would be speaking and just like me they would have not kown that they were put down as pro casino until it was brought to there attention by someone else. Once again the system is just making things up as they go along I don't blame the business people handling the casino I am blaming whoever is handling this whole thing. So I am NOT Pro Casino and I am not Pro NO Casino. I Wish NOT to Have ANY SAY.

I am opposed to the slots facility.

Dear Board Members:

I am writing to urge to not to approve the Mason-Dixon Resorts` application for a gaming license. I am by no means against all casinos, I understand they create necessary revenue and I am usually in favor of them. However, I am adamantly opposed to a casino in Gettysburg. The Mason-Dixon Resorts casino will fundamentally change the atmosphere of Gettysburg that generations of Americans have worked so hard to preserve for nearly 150 years. In addition, there is another casino in the region that visitors can patronize if they wish, after visiting the battlefield - Hollywood Casino in Hershey (it is only a short drive and will allow visitors to see our State`s beautiful scenery).

As a history lover, my heart aches due to the proposal of placing a casino so close to sacred ground. Brave men fought on this ground 150 years ago to preserve our Union; we must honor their lives, not create a place where the focus is taken off of them. I ask you to consider what would be said if a casino was proposed adjacent to the site of Ground Zero in NYC, in Somerset County, PA or near the Pentagon in DC. There is just something inherently wrong with the idea of placing a casino so close to sacred ground. There is no difference between that sacred ground and the sacred ground of Gettysburg.

Gettysburg has gone without a casino for 150 years. Generations of Americans have worked hard to preserve the atmosphere of peacefulness and serenity. If the casino is not opposed, all of their hard work and dedication will have been in vain because the atmosphere of Gettysburg will be forever changed.

Abraham Lincoln once said that we can never forget what the brave men did who struggled on Gettysburg`s battlefield. You have the opportunity to make sure that we don`t forget those brave men and that we always honor the place where our Country had a new birth of freedom by opposing the issuance of a gaming license to Mason-Dixon Resorts. Thank you for your time and consideration.

As someone from Great Britain I find it appalling that you wish to tarnish the memory of those who fell at Gettysburg, all for the sake of another Casino!

Here in Great Britain we have a wide range of historical sites, but still we value every single one of them as vitally important to our cultural identity. Sadly this doesn't seem to be the case in your Country.

You need to preserve your cultural heritage as much as possible, especially one as important as Gettysburg! This battlefield is known throughout the world as a very significant and historical site in the short history of America, and you should be doing everything in your power to keep it as such.

Please reconsider this decision, you have very few historically important sites left in your Country, and you have far too many Casinos!

Name: **denise m. merriott**

State: **UK**

County: **essex**

ID: **3253**

RegID: **3390**

Having visited the town and enjoyed its particular charm, we would like to preserve the historic nature of the city and show respect to the fallen at Gettysburg. We feel that a casino is not in keeping with the nature of the town and its historical associations.

To Whom it May Concern:

Can't our fallen rest in peace in hallowed ground? Have they not fought and lost enough already? Please keep the Gettysburg area a place where citizens can go and pay their respects instead a place where they can go and lose their money.

Thank you.

Carol D. Clapp

Name: **William Donald. McEachern**

State: **FL**

County: **Palm Beach**

ID: **3256**

RegID: **3391**

Gaming is absolutely the wrong thing for this historic and sacred ground. Gaming brings out the worst in people; our history will inspire people. Which do you want to do the hearts and minds of Americans?

We have to preserve our heritage which includes lands on or near where people fought and died for this nation.

desecration of hallowed ground.

I strongly oppose the idea for a casino at the sight of one of the bloodiest battles in American history. I think it would be a great disservice to the men who fought there to build a casino, which would only trivalise their sacrifices.

Leave the land alone. It is part of american history not the almighty dollar.

Name: **Howard W. Loewen** State: **OR** County: **USA** ID: **3275** RegID: **3408**

Please do not desecrate this land!!!!

Name: **Patrick E. Hutchison** State: **Id** County: **Ada** ID: **3278** RegID: **3410**

This is hollowed ground and does not need to be polluted with Licenced games of chance

A gambling casino in the Gettysburg Community would desecrate the hallowed ground where the historic battle of Gettysburg was fought. It would adversely effect the experience of the visitors to the military park. Please vote No to any license proposal involving the building of a casino in or near Gettysburg.

To what end would a casino so close to the most hallowed ground in America serve? Only to that of profiteering, toward ill-gotten gains derived from the memory of fallen soldiers in a war whose meaning seems to be lost more every day. Is this why the Civil War was fought? So that, one day in the distant future, women in `period` garb that would be found in brothels only could cavort around a carpeted floor and serve drinks to intoxicated gamblers, hoping only for one great score (in either slot, really)? Does it in some way honor the men who fought and died to keep the Union together and oppose slavery and oppression that we construct a cathedral to consumerism in their image? You may point to the shops and tours and such that permeate Gettysburg itself and posit that these are no worse than a casino, but tourists come to the battlefield and need to eat, need shelter, and (because this is, after all, America) somehow feel the need to go on ghost tours and buy souvenirs. **THIS DOES NOT MEAN THEY NEED A CASINO!** The casino would not add to the atmosphere but detract from it, would not provide a service but would itself act as an attraction that would turn people away from the battlefield, away from the history they should have come to see and toward a generic monolith designed only to empty their wallets at the expense of their minds. If you really feel the need to place a casino near Gettysburg, if all the conditions are perfect for such an endeavor to succeed without cheapening the memory of this great and terrible moment in our collective experience, then simply do the right thing: build that casino with absolutely no mention of the battlefield, the war or even the nineteenth century at all. If this is so necessary and can't-miss that you feel justified in building it, leave the place and its history entirely out of the casino. Go ahead. I dare you. But if you refuse this challenge, if you build your casino and pimp out dead soldiers on one-armed bandits, then you will have implicitly admitted that we were right, that it was Gettysburg and its history you were looking to leech off of, that just building a casino and generating jobs and tax dollars was a justification, not a purpose. I highly doubt, however, you'd ever build that casino in that spot without siphoning the natural marketing appeal that is inherent in one of the great non-natural pilgrimage sites in America; that would be a poor gamble indeed.

Name: **Charles R. Stephens** State: **OH** County: **United States** ID: **3290** RegID:
3422

Do not let a commercial interest over see the importance or our history and heritage. We have lost too much of our history --- don`t loose more.

Name: **WILLIAM S. MACDONALD** State: **RI** County: **PROVIDENCE** ID: **3293**
RegID: 3425

I oppose the building of a casino near the Gettysburg Battlefield where so many Americans gave their lives.

Please do not gamble with the hallowed ground of Gettysburg. This is no place for such activity. Do not allow such an enterprise to soil the ground over which so many men fought and died. There is already a tourism business here, and the presence of a casino would ruin that business.
Thank you.

Please do not build this casino on one of the most hallowed sites in the country. A facility like this just doesn't belong in Gettysburg. The people who would be drawn to the area by this casino for the most part are not interested in history, and that doesn't mix well with those who are there to visit Gettysburg to pay their respects and study the sacrifices made by those who took part in the Civil War.

Name: **Duane s. Seiner**

State: **PA**

County: **blair**

ID: **3307**

RegID: **3438**

As i said its ok to put a casion in adams county , but do we have to put it so close to the Hallowed Ground of the Gettysburg Battle field? I dont think so.

As a service member and lifetime student of military history, I can only say that this gaming facility has no place on or near this hallowed ground. I'm sure if you asked the head of this project if he would build a gaming facility in the cemetery where his mother was buried, he would never do such a thing. These grounds were preserved to remember and reflect on the ultimate sacrifice that was made by tens of thousands of Americans in our greatest national struggle. Gettysburg is a place for remembering and learning, a place for every generation to gain a look into our nation`s past and feel the sobering weight of what happened there. Show some class, and show your support for those who swore an oath to defend something larger than themselves--build your casino somewhere else.

I would like to quickly voice my opposition to the latest attempt to build a casino on the outskirts of Gettysburg Battlefield. The casino is nothing more than the product of simpleminded, greedy people who want to make a buck off the sacrifices of our ancestors. Gettysburg is hallowed ground and should not be corrupted by greed.

There is a place for Casinos and Gambling in this country, on the site America`s bloodiest battlefield isn`t one of them.

I vigorously oppose a casino near Gettysburg.

I do not believe that this proposal would be appropriate for this location.

As a lifetime Pennsylvania resident, I oppose the casino. I am familiar with the location selected, having stayed in the hotel in the past. I visit Gettysburg multiple times a year. It is there, that I contemplate the sacrifices our ancestors made during the Civil War. I consider it sacred ground, consecrated by their blood.

A casino establishment would make NO contribution to the remembrance of that sacrifice, only a detraction. The location is too close to the battlefield environs.

Thank you for your consideration.

Name: **Jennifer E. Kunkle** State: **VA** County: **Fredericksburg** ID: **3320** RegID:
3450

I understand that Mason-Dixon is questioning the validity of certain petitions obtained by preservation groups opposed to its casino application. My name appears on one of those petition (submitted by the CWPT) and I can assure you I signed it and my signature is valid. I oppose the casino site in Gettysburg and hope that you will see through this latest desperate attempt by Mason-Dixon to silence the voice of its opposition. The casino should go somewhere else. This is not the place for it. Thank you.

Name: **John F. Kelley** State: **NJ** County: **Sussex** ID: **3323** RegID: **3455**

Please do not gamble with the future of this historic site

I strongly believe that the approval of this license and the building of this facility will be the worst decision made by this board in all of its history. It goes against the wishes of so many people who support this area and its historical value, myself included. To cheapen our history and this sacred ground is an abomination of the first class and anyone supporting it should be ashamed of themselves. You may believe that just because its not technically on the battlefield that it makes it alright but it does not make it alright for those of us who hold this place and its history so close to our hearts. You must think, ladies and gentleman of the board, of the far reaching consequences of your actions on this day. You will be mightly offending a large group of people who support battlefield preservation and bring money to the surrounding area. How ugly will the landscape that we treasure be with this monstrosity clouding the skyline? How will I be able to find that link to our past that I feel when I look out over the battlefields with this nasty obstruction reminding me of your comtemptuous greed? I do not even live in the surrounding area, I am from the midwest, but I have been to Gettysburg EVERY YEAR SINCE I WAS 16. I am now 25 years old and I don`t see myself continuing to make my yearly pilgrimage there if you let your avarice and greed win and approve the license for and the building of this facility. How many others do you think will follow in my wake? Is it really worth it in the end? Aren`t there many, many other places that Mason-Dixon Resorts, LP can consider for this facility? Why does it have to be here, in this place? Because its already a tourist meca? Yes, it is, but NOT for gambling! Are we to see one of our most beloved historical treasures cheapened and sullied by your rapacity Mason-Dixon Resorts, LP? Well I, for one, whole heartedly oppose this licensing, this venture, this facility AND this company, Mason-Dixon Resorts, LP. Which is why mine was one of the more then 30,200 signatures on the petition against this and if you would like my name, address and phone number for proof I have just submitted all of my information to the PGCB to be able send in these words and my vote for opposition!

I wish to register my opposition to the proposed casino at Cumberlertand Township owing the negative effect it will have on the Gettysburg battlefield site. Remember what Lincoln said `We cannot dedicate—we cannot consecrate—we cannot hallow—this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract.` The casino will, however, detract.

If you haven't gotten the message by now, one symbol that commands your attention, I'm sure, is \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$. Stop with this inane foolishness, no one cares about these casinos (and I heard there are approximately 3000 signatures FOR the casino, which is NOTHING comparatively, get a clue). What is really unfortunate, is your illiteracy and knowledge (lack of) on historical preservation and integrity. So I am stopping my tirade here, because, it will literally fall on deaf (and dumb) ears. I suppose you should be pitied more than anything. Tsk, tsk

Putting a casino there is like putting one at the base of the Statue of Liberty. Gettysburg is a national shrine, and for you to put a casino there for short-term profit would cheapen the park and show how the locals disrespect the place where men fought and died for their country. Developers wanted to put a casino on Alcatraz here in San Francisco but the local people voted it down because they knew it would say something about how the locals view their history. How much more precious to our national memory is Gettysburg, and if you despoil it with a casino it says you value money and greed over a forever sober respect for what happened there.

I am disappointed and outraged that you would consider approving a gambling establishment at the site of the Battle of Gettysburg. This is a horrible proposition. Out of respect for the shared cultural heritage of our society, you should be working to protect, not destroy these battlefield parks.

I am opposed to the building of a casino at Gettysburg.

Thank you.

No Casino. Too Close To Hallowed Ground.

Did You Ever Bother To Read About The Battle?

While not a resident of Pennsylvania, I am an American citizen and as such have an interest with regards to issues affecting our national historic sites. The Gettysburg Battlefield is a NATIONAL HISTORIC site. As such, all visitors to this hallowed ground would be adversely affected by the location of a gambling casino less than one mile away.

The two sites, a revered and important part of our nation`s history and a gambling casino are just not compatible to be co-located. The two audiences, their reasons for attending and their access to their respective sites are not compatible either.

The Emmitsburg Road is crossed by battlefield visitors on foot, and increased road traffic of casino visitors would create more opportunities and higher risk for accidents. There are many historic markers along the road that would be put at risk by casino visitors & workers [especially IF alcohol is sold at the casino]. The speed limit in the Park is relatively low and frankly that two-lane road may not be up to the increased traffic, requiring more maintenance and monitoring by park police and local law departments.

I doubt the casino supporters really NEED to place their casino near a National Military Park, its just that is where the property opportunity lies.

Well, if a casino was not warranted before [proposed on the east side of town on US-30 & near the US-15 By-pass freeway], when it was even further from the Battlefield Park, WHY would it even be considered now, virtually on top of the Battlefield and with even poorer access?

Please, in the interest of our nation`s history, do not endanger or dishonor it with the inappropriate co-location of a casino.

Thank-you,

Richard M. Caras
Flint, Michigan
USA

I feel strongly that the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board should take the Gettysburg area permanently off the table in considering gaming licenses, and should turn down the application by Mason-Dixon Resorts for a gaming license in Adams County.

The Battle of Gettysburg was a momentous event in our country's history. Today people still come to see the battlefield and to learn about the war that nearly destroyed our Nation. A casino placed in proximity to the Gettysburg National Military Park and National Cemetery is as inappropriate a location as one could ever imagine. If you can place a casino in Gettysburg just to take advantage of the tourism generated by that historic location, then why not place one at Arlington Cemetery, alongside the Arizona Memorial in Pearl Harbor, or on the Mall beside the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.? If those locations sound grossly inappropriate, then Gettysburg should elicit a similar response.

A license for a casino at Gettysburg has been turned down before, and rightly so, for a location that was slightly farther away from the battlefield and cemetery than the current proposal. To return with an application for a location even closer smacks of arrogance. It shows a lack of respect on the part of Mason-Dixon Resorts for the previous decision of the Pennsylvania Gaming Board. A casino in Gettysburg will shift the focus from family-friendly heritage tourism to something completely incompatible with the historic nature of the place and siphon off tourism dollars that would otherwise be spent in town.

I worry about the social impact on Gettysburg and Adams County as well. I live outside Batavia, New York. We have a casino in Batavia. When it opened, it promised jobs. What we got were pawn shops.

Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, is truly a national treasure. The people of Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Gaming Board should do all in their power to protect it. Please do not issue a license for a casino in Adams County.

Opposed to the idea of a casino on battlefield grounds or even near the area. There are already plenty of casinos in PA. Build it elsewhere.

Name: **Dani Caputi**

State: **PA**

County: **Luzerne**

ID: **3349**

RegID: **3483**

I feel that putting a casino so close to the park would be not only detrimental to the park and town, but also horrendously and inexcuseably disrespectful to those who fought and died on these grounds. I do not understand why this needs to be located so close to the park.

There are better place to put the resorts. We must preserve waas pure land we have for all mankind.

Upon my recent visit to Gettysburg, I became aware of the desire of some townfolk to construct a casino in this sacred ground. Not only to your community is it sacred but to all Americans. I live in a community where a battlefield existed Franklin Tennessee and I cannot imagine anyone ever thinking this would provide a benefit to our community. Although we do not have the same problems in our county we share the same history.

I believe it is a responsibility of all Americans to support, in some way, our historic Gettysburg. America needs your help and I would ask Americans for assistance. How can we help be a part of the solution to your problem instead of creating a bigger monster. What really does America stand for? A casino is not something I would like to see in the future of this community.

Maybe a fund could be established and ask America to donate. I would like to donate the first dollar and I will ask everyone I know to do the same.

Ask America how we can help? It is not just a Gettysburg thing.

Casino destroys for family and the community. No real jobs will be created.

I am strongly against the casino in Hampden township.

Name: **Michael E. Carden** State: **Oh** County: **Stark** ID: **3357** RegID: **3500**

Our family visits Gettysburg once to twice a year. If a casino is built we will discontinue our visits. We are greatly disappointed that this is even being considered again.

You must stop this madness.

We need to honor our past.... not build more casinos.

Businesses of this sort do NOT belong within the view- shed, or near proximity of what I consider sacred ground. This is Gettysburg that we are talking about. Not some otherwise insignificant battle of the Great Civil War. All of the hard work of preservation groups over the last 20 years is at risk by bringing this type of business to the area. There are plenty of locations that would better suit a casino than one that is literally located on an important piece of American History. Please deny this business this location.
Thank You

I understand that the supporters of turning the Eisenhower Inn & Conference Center near Gettysburg National Military Park into a gaming casino have called into question the opposition to their scheme by members and supporters of the Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT). As a member of the CWPT, I can assure you that I vehemently oppose such a desecration to the memory of the tens of thousands of American men who fought and died at Gettysburg those three days in July 1863. Putting a casino so near to such hallowed ground is an insult, not only to the Americans who fought there, but to all Americans who have served our country from the Revolution to today. This is not an issue that just affects the citizens of Pennsylvania. It affects all Americans, living, dead, and yet to be born. Casinos can be built anywhere. Why put one right next door to such an important place in American history? Please, for the sake of our shared heritage, do not allow Mason-Dixon Resorts or anyone else to have a casino anywhere near Gettysburg National Military Park. Thank you.

Daniel Vodra, Sergeant, Company A, 5th Michigan Volunteer Infantry, marched up the Emmitsburg Pike on July 2, 1863. South of the current National Park boundary -- perhaps near the site of the proposed casino --- his regiment took fire from Confederate marksmen. They did not return fire, but hurried on to destiny.

Hours later, Daniel was killed near the Wheatfield. This young man from Michigan gave his life defending Pennsylvania from invasion and protecting the experiment in self-government that began in Philadelphia in 1776.

He is buried in the National Cemetery at Gettysburg. When Lincoln spoke there, over the fresh graves, he said, `We cannot dedicate -- we cannot consecrate -- we cannot hallow -- this ground.`

We cannot consecrate. But we can desecrate.

Were this site proposed for use for some noble cause -- to heal the sick, to educate the young, to worship God, to conduct research to solve today`s challenges, or even just to bind the family together -- it might not desecrate. But the casino is a purely commercial enterprise, in an industry with a tarnished reputation that has never elevated mankind to more noble thoughts or ideals. It is hard to imagine a more tawdry business to link to hallowed ground.

The Board`s decision regarding the Mason-Dixon proposal is not a simple balancing of economic interests like jobs and tax revenues. At stake is honor and duty to those who gave their last full measure of devotion.

Please, before you vote, visit the National Cemetery. Walk among the graves. (Daniel is buried among the Michigan troops, under a marker that misspells his name.) Think about Lincoln`s words -- that these dead shall not have died in vain. Then, and only then, ask yourself how to vote on the proposal.

Daniel Vodra died unmarried and childless. I am a collateral descendent, and speak on his behalf. I urge you not to desecrate the sacrifice that he made for Pennsylvania and America. Please respect the unique legacy that is Gettysburg and honor the men who died there.

Several times a year I travel to Gettysburg to walk the battlefield and reflect on how the country became such a great and unique nation. There are only a handful of other places in the US that can even equal the importance of Gettysburg in this regard. To allow this casino so close to this historic area would violate our responsibilities to preserve this site and denigrate the losses of our ancestors.

I have also led Boy Scouts in visits to the battlefield and camped with them in McPherson`s Woods. The presence of this resort would reduce the visitors to the area by destroying the family friendly learning experience of the museum and park. I doubt that I would feel as comfortable bringing the troop there knowing that advertisements for gaming would be present in our approach and the sights and sounds of gambling is literally over the next rise.

The casino is a bad idea for such a great and important place. Please deny this application.

I would like to express my support of the Mason Dixon proposal in Cumberland Township, Adams County.

I know you have received many communications expressing the desire for you to not approve this location. I do so hope you look through the smoke and mirrors put up by the opposition and look at the facts.

First, this is not a national issue. This site is, as you know not on the national park, it is on private land that is properly zoned for this use. This is a local issue and I do so hope you look at the desires of the local population rather than that of some well intentioned but misinformed individuals who do not live here and will not benefit from or live with the consequences of this casino.

Second, this casino can't be seen or heard from anyplace on the Gettysburg National Military Park, or an of the tour routs for the park.

Third, there are the claims that this casino will desecrate hollowed ground. There was no action taken on this location. Yes troops did march by, and there were cavalry units who formed up in the vicinity, but no action.

Fourth, you have been told that tourist will never return to Gettysburg is there is a casino here. I have talked with many tourist and must say that most don't care one way or the other. There are those who look forward to having something else to do while in the area, and others who say that even if it is here, they will not visit the casino, but will return to Gettysburg. Gettysburg is the Mecca for history enthusiast and those interested in history will always come to Gettysburg.

Many of these people who message you have been lead to believe that this casino will actually be on the National Park by misleading pictures showing scenes of the battlefield, along with the wording "After 50,000 casualties this isn't the place for a casino", or pictures of civil war soldiers saying "I didn't fight so a casino could be built here."

As a veteran and son of a veteran and a descendent of one who actually fought here at Gettysburg, I am personally offended that some individuals would use such pictures and try to give the impression that they know what these brave young men would say about this issue.

I do respectfully request that you approve the Mason Dixon proposal as the best location for the final license in Pennsylvania.

Historic sites which provide such understanding and continuity of our past are priceless, and fragile. We use zoning to protect our communities in so many ways, and yet the disastrous effects of a casino on the tranquility of this important piece of our history is being seriously considered to be alright.

It fills one with despair.

I trust this is the proposal for Gettysburg. Gettysburg is not an appropriate site for a casino. There are plenty of other locations much more suitable than this town where such an important event in US history took place. A casino will only detract from the importance of Gettysburg as an historic site.

The proposal to build a gaming facility anywhere in proximity to Gattysburg Natioanl Battlefield mocks everything that Americans stand for, and that Americans have fought, sacrificed, and died for since our nation was founded in 1776. Our politicians and public servants constantly give speeches in which they remind American citizens to never forget those who have sacrificed for our country, and exhort us to always honor their memories. This proposal makes a mockery of those calls and is a vulgar insult to the men of both the North and South who fought at Gettysburg, and to the good people of that portion of Pennsylvania who also suffered and sacrificed during the course of the battle and its immediate aftermath. Have some decency for their sake, for the sake of Americans living today, and for those Americans who follow us. Oppose the gaming facility!!!

Although I now live in Utah, I grew up in Hagerstown, Maryland, and loved to visit my aunt and uncle in Blue Ridge Summit, Pennsylvania. I visited Gettysburg many times while living there, and often return there when I visit the east coast. The idea of building a casino within a half-mile of the battlefield sickens me. It will cheapen the experience of visiting Gettysburg, and will show that Pennsylvania does not think its history and heritage are worth protecting. I urge you to do the right thing and oppose this casino so our children and grandchildren can fully appreciate the lives that were sacrificed over 100 years ago to allowed our nation to endure.

im oppose all an

I have written personally before - as Rachel Evans. I live in the Uk, but own property and pay taxes in Adams County.

On behalf of my company, I would like to submit the following petition of Living Historians AGAINST the casino being built in Gettysburg.

<http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/nocasinogettysburg/signatures>

Sadly this petiton was hijacked and had a redirection placed on it. But I have included herein the direct link, with over 400 living historians expressing their opposition to the Mason Dixon Resort/Casion.

Thank you!

It is a disgrace to the American people that a casino is even being considered on or near such hallowed ground as Gettysburg Pa. Gettysburg`s rich history is being lost through rich developers looking to cash in on the sacrifices of the American soldiers that fought here and in some cases lost their lives. As an American, I am disgusted and sickened by this second attempt stain a national treasure. Build your casino somewhere else,it is not wanted or needed on our hallowed ground of Gettysburg. Thank You, Percy M. Clark Bath NY

I am opposed on general principles, however, if there is no stopping these unnecessary amusements, then I would suggest that this one`s location be positioned appropriately. We already have a casino at Penn National and having sites too close tends to make them eat each other`s lunch. No one wants to have a dead shell of one of these things in their area after it closes for lack of activity.

Name: **Patricia A. Hasenmueller** State: **TN** County: **Maury** ID: **3381** RegID: **3519**

Putting a gambling establishment on or near the battlefield at Gettysburg is a travesty and disrespectful to all who fought and died there. Please go make money away from the hallowed ground.

To whom it may concern I would like to offer my comments and thoughts on the subject of the Mason-Dixon Resorts. I attended the hearing that was held in Gettysburg. I would like you to know that my Grandfather is buried in the cemetery that was just next door to the hotel were this hearing was held . He is a veteran of two wars and has received the purple heart. I do not think that this building (that was built) next to the cemetery takes away the honor that my grandfather is entitled to for his service to this country. Likewise, I do not think that using the hotel (that is already built on the land) that adjoins the battlefield (on the far fringes of this battlefield) for a casino would be any different. Having a building next to a cemetery does not denigrate any veteran from any war. The hotel is already here, the only argument that the no casino group has is that they are against it for the sole reason of that they are against gambling altogether. This is not a good argument either as gambling in Pennsylvania has already been approved. Why then, if a hotel is already built on this land and gambling is already an approved law ,should Gettysburg not be able to be the recipient of this license.

I am the seventh generation of my family to live in Adams County. I was born and raised in Gettysburg. I grew up just one block from East Calvary Avenue. As a person growing up here I have walked these fields and roads many times and I love all of it very much. As a child growing up here we learned how important this battle was and we respect the battlefield and we protect it. We also learned that growing up here meant that you would probabaly have to go elsewhere to get any kind of good jobs. Most of the jobs in this area are service jobs from the battlefield. When the tourist season is done alot of those jobs go away. There are two more generations of my family that come after me and most of the children have had to leave the area to find family sustaining jobs.

The current economy has hit everyone very hard. Within Adams County we have just had a reassessment on our properties. With the battlfield being so large there is no taxes collected from them. There is also no taxes collected from the Gettysburg College or the Lutheran Seminary and the numerous churches in the area. This leaves only a small group to support this tax base, that by the way, pays for all of the roads and services that are used by all of our visitors and students from all over the world. I love this battlefield and always have, However we need help to keep our heads above water to continue to support this Battlefield that was cast upon Gettysburg so many years ago. Gettysburg does need help to support the families that live here so that they can continue to support and protect this battlefield for the future. It would also help keep our seasonal workers employed year round.

Families can no longer afford to pay the taxes on their properties and as such alot of the stores and homes are coming up empty. It will not be long until this will become a ghost town if this continues.

I think that a casino would be a great addition to the area. When people come here they are usually on vacation and many times over the years people have asked me what else is there to do after they see the battlefield. There has never been much else to keep the visitors here after spending several hours on the battlefield. A casino would be a great way to keep the visitors that are already here, here for a while longer. It would bring in a lot more funding to the town, county and the state. We already have the people coming here and we need a way to keep them here instead of going elsewhere.

I am a supporter of gambling, I enjoy going and playing the slots as a form of entertainment. Before gambling became legal in Pennsylvania I would travel south to Charlestown WV. to play. After gambling became legal in Pennysvania I chose to keep our money in Pennsylvania and now I will travel north to Grantville. I think that if you would put a casino here you would bring in a lot of money into the state from out of state people. I think that this would be a win win situation for everyone. Good for the battlefield and for the people of Gettysburg, Adams County and Pennsylvania.

Please seriously consider Mason-Dixon Resorts as the best place to grant this license. Mr David LeVan is a well known person in this area who has done many great things for Gettysburg and the surrounding area as well as the Battlefield. He will build a wonderful casino and he will do it in a very respectful way that will enhance the area and be a great addition to the Battlefield.

I disagree with placement of the casino in Gettysburg. I believe that the casino is a poor idea on economic and moral grounds. If it has to be somewhere, it should be at a resort that is already identified with entertainment--not in a town known for its role in the Civil War.

thanks,
Karen Ifert

As a USA Army Veteran I stongly oppose a casino anywhwere in the proximity of the Gettysburg Memorial location. Clearly, the proposed location near this important historic location is solely intended to draw from its nearness and will diminish the solemn dignity of the historic Memorial. I am not against having casinos, but please choose another Pennsylvania location

On July 2nd, 1865, my great grandfather, Lt. Malbone Francis Watson, 5th US Artillery, lost his right leg at Gettysburg because the politically-appointed General Sickles had placed his entire corps in a famously indefensible position. I have held that leg bone in my hands. Ironically, Sickles lost his leg also.

I consider any casino with a Gettysburg address to be a triple sacrilege: (1) a for-profit business taking advantage of a locale made famous by blood sacrifices; (2) the general public engaging in frivolous activity in what for all practical purposes is a town-sized cemetery; and (3) a municipality harboring such activity for the sake of tax revenue. These are not honorable choices. I have learned that Watson, as a loyal soldier, never complained about the pain with him for the rest of his life. But hearing how this generation contemplates capitalizing on another's loss would certainly give him pause. I wonder if young people today would fight anywhere if told this would be their fate.

Name: **James T. Rhodes**

State: **VA**

County: **City**

ID: **3389**

RegID: **3525**

I oppose the casino.

When I was in Junior High School, I memorized Lincoln`s Gettysburg Address, and recited it for the school assembly celebrating VJ Day -- the end of WWII. It gave me a deep appreciation for the spirit of the thousands of soldiers and citizens who fought, died, or survived there -- followed by the thousands who gathered there later to dedicate a portion of the battlefield as a memorial and to rededicate themselves to unity. The thought of a casino appealing to get-rich-quick dreams of passersby is a travesty detracting from the nobility of the causes for which people fought seven score and ten years ago.

Name: **Johanna U. McIntyre** State: **Pa** County: **Montgomery** ID: **3393** RegID:
3528

The blood of many was spilled there and it should be kept as hallowed ground.

Name: **George U. McIntyre** State: **Pa** County: **Montgomery** ID: **3396** RegID: **3529**

I can't even think that you would consider this. The blood of so many flowed here and it is hallowed ground.

Name: **PATRICK J. MISCIAGNA** State: **CT** County: **Fairfield** ID: **3399** RegID:
3530

Please do not approve the development of the casino. It disrepects the dead and the history of our nation.

Name: **Mary Jo Eline** State: **PA** County: **York** ID: **3402** RegID: **3532**

As an Army veteran and a patriot I strongly oppose this casino. Do not dishonor those who gave their lives on the Gettysburg battlefield.

Name: **Eugene Eline** State: **PA** County: **York** ID: **3403** RegID: **3533**

I oppose the Mason-Dixon Resorts LP slots facility.

Name: **Margaret Price Sims** State: **CT** County: **Fairfield** ID: **3405** RegID: **3535**

I strongly oppose the building of a LP slots facility on hollowed ground... For those you gave their lives in Gettysburg, please do not allow this vote to pass!

Please do not build casinos near the sacred ground at Gettysburg.

Please vote no

I am very much in support of the Casino coming to Adams County. It would help our communities in the surrounding area immensely. Work is scarce everywhere. We need jobs badly. I have been without work since July 2010, using my saving`s to survive. I would love to work at the Casino, as I have been a public servant for years. I would be an asset to my community. A working participant in my home area.

Products and goods in the local area being purchased for updating and maintaining the Casino would help everyone. Please consider Adams County for the gaming license as it is in a very strategic area, for people to access it via Rt 15 and the traffic it would bring would not impact the rural area in a negative way.

At this point, I'm certain that you've heard all the various arguments that you're likely to hear, and I think it unlikely that I will be able to add anything new to the debate. I want first and foremost to add my name to the list of those in firm opposition to the casino proposed by Mason-Dixon resorts.

Additionally, I wish to re-iterate the line recited by Matthew Broderick (in paraphrase), and which I think is worthy of repeating; that is, `Surely there must be a more appropriate place for a casino than Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.`

I would very much like to think that those persons in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in position to exercise the public trust would understand the unique importance of Gettysburg, both locally and nationally, and acknowledge that they should measure this proposal against a much higher standard than they might otherwise do.

I believe that history will judge this decision with conviction. I personally cannot fathom that Pennsylvania Governor Rendell, or whomever is to follow him, would wish to have their good name associated with potentially jeopardizing a place as historic and sacred as Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, by approving this ill conceived proposal.

Signed, a very concerned citizen,
William Baetz

1. The benefits proposed by Mason-Dixon Resorts including jobs, economic stimulus of the local economy are short-term in relation to the over 100 years of historical tourism by the National Battlefield Park at Gettysburg, to date. I have yet to see the same returns from any casino property in the entire United States.
2. Mason-Dixon Resorts insists their chosen site is the only site available for Adams County. This creates discord in the County, which increases poorer community harmony.
3. By moving to a less developed community, such as East Berlin, this would increase Adams County Tourism, and provide stimulus to a broader base in the County. This would make the claim for increased jobs spread over a broader section of Adams county, and would increase tourism dollars for a greater base in the County.
4. Historical Tourism in Gettysburg is increasing at a steady rate in Gettysburg. During the Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War over the next several years, the draw of the National Battlefield Park would increase the tourism revenues far more than establishing a casino. The nature of the tourism revenue in the Gettysburg area increases as the Battlefield remains pristine.
5. Mason-Dixon Resorts should provide the Court with better documentation that they have thoroughly researched ALL communities in the County for placement of their venue. I have seen no such documentation, has the Court?
6. The intrinsic value of the National Battlefield Park, the Educational value of its programs, the Historical value of what occurred, and occurs there daily, is for our generation, and future generations to come. It is international in scope, and timeless beyond all measure.
7. Abraham Lincoln stated in his Gettysburg Address that it was beyond the human ability to add or subtract from the value of what happened at Gettysburg. No monetary desire should affect that value of timelessness.
8. I have asked myself why Mason-Dixon Resorts have gone so far as to litigate the placing of a casino within the most well-known community in Adams County, instead of `spreading the wealth` to other communities in Adams County. Putting aside whatever politics might be present in that `personal` conflict with Gettysburg; WHY can't this casino go to East Berlin, Abbotstown, or any number of townships in Adams County and broaden, rather than narrow the economy of the County? I have not heard a single reason to explain why Cumberland township MUST be the only site for a casino.

I have visited Gettysburg twice in my life, and as a former resident of Pennsylvania, I would like to ask that keep the battlefield and the area around it free of casinos and related entertainment. I have visited Las Vegas and Atlantic City for business in the past and left thoroughly disappointed. If I never had to go back to Vegas or Atlantic City, that would be fine. I would like to take my four children to Gettysburg for the historical value. I will never take them to Vegas or AC.

252 Upper Pond Road
Litchfield, ME 04350
November 1, 2010

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter to express in the strongest possible terms my opposition to the construction of a casino anywhere on or near the Gettysburg Battlefield. The potential profit of a select few should not come at the expense of the permanent desecration of one of America's most sacred places. As Abraham Lincoln said so eloquently, this is consecrated ground for all Americans. Surely the men who participated in the events of July 1863 – those who fought, bled and died there – would find it incomprehensible that the memory of their struggle means so little to some.

I am an amateur historian and am presently researching the actions of the 19th Maine Regiment during the Battle of Gettysburg.

PLEASE reject the attempt to build a casino at Gettysburg.

Sincerely,
Edward L. Avis

Name: **HOWARD R. BUCKLES** State: **FL** County: **Columbia** ID: **3422** RegID:
3551

I oppose the desecration of Gettysburg by allowing any gambling casino to be built within the confines of this Confederate Memorial Site:

Name: **Paula M M. Miller** State: **TX** County: **williamson county** ID: **3423** RegID:
3552

Why can't this memorial remain original and untouched by today's desire to make more money? What do you REALLY value? Money? That's an empty joy in the whole scheme of things and will really never satisfy.

I think it would be a gross insult to the rich history and natural beauty of Adam`s County to install a gambling resort in the heart of arguably the most significant theater of warfare in our country. The foundations of our `United States` of America were laid in the blood that stained the soil of Adam`s County in 1863. To erect a classless and tacky altar of hedonism will only stain Adams County with regret. There is no place for a casino in Gettysburg. Numerous case studies of casinos in other cities and townships illustrate that the few capital gains seen are transient and short-lived but the legacy of a casino is longterm socio-economic disintegration. The effect on small businesses alone will be irreparable; in an age where small privately owned shops and restaurants are already assailed by larger conglomerate chains and internet boutiques, opening a casino in Adams County would just be hammering coffin nails into the heart of the local economy and tourism business. I have visited Adam`s County every year of my life for the last 24 years. I will do so with hesitation and regret if such a callous mistake should allow this proposed `resort` to blemish our proud national history and hurt the people who call this area home.

Please let the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board rule against approval of Mason-Dixon Resorts licensure to open its doors in Adam`s County.

Please help keep our country`s history intact.

Protect the livelihood of Adams County and its rich variety of small shops, restaurants and inns.

Keep casinos OUT of Gettysburg.

I would like to express my support for the Mason Dixon proposal in Cumberland Township, Adams County.

It is my belief that this is the best location for the final license to be approved in Pennsylvania.

I feel that this proposed location will bring jobs and much needed tax relief to our community and I also believe it will be a good boost to our tourism industry, and may help to bring more industry and businesses to the area.

I do so hope you will look past the smoke and mirrors of the opposition and grant this license to Mason Dixon.

Respectfully,

William D. Mellors
4000 Emmitsburg Road
Fairfield, Pa. 17320
Freedom Township, Adams County