

April 30, 2019

Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board  
303 Walnut St  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Strawberry Square  
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Greetings:

My name is Donna Moyer and I am writing to you to show my support for the building of the mini-casino in Morgantown.

My partner and I are heavily invested in what some have come to call the Twin Valley area. We own a home in Robeson Township just off of Route 10 which means that we travel past the proposed site for the casino on a regular basis.

We also own an investment property in Elverson Borough, the next town to the east of Morgantown. That property was used as a residence before we purchased it, but it is zoned commercially. We have invested heavily to improve it so that it can house businesses. And we have been able to grow our businesses there due to the excellent regional location and access to major roadways.

However, not everyone sees the potential that the area has to offer and it has been difficult for us to attract other businesses to the area to lease any of the space we have made available.

We still believe in the great potential of the area, but we also know that it will take a destination business to draw in other investors.

If you had asked me what I would like to see as a destination business, a casino would not have been my first choice. Since we are so heavily invested in the area, I wanted to be sure that whatever destination business we had, it would have the right impact on our area.

However, I do have great respect for Penn National Gaming as a company. And as I heard about the tax benefits to the host community, investment that Penn National Gaming would provide to the community at large, how the gaming industry is regulated and the security around the site itself, I was able to see the advantages that a casino could bring to our area over other businesses that would occupy the proposed site. This led to my decision to support the casino.

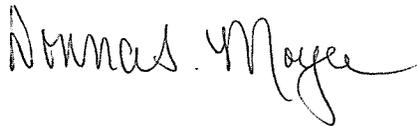
I am also very much in favor of the proposed location. Locating the casino along Route 10 in New Morgan would not be something that I would be in favor of due to the potential traffic congestion it could cause. The location at the intersection of 3 major roadways is ideal for the community.

Additionally, the tax benefit to New Morgan would really not benefit the community at large. Caernarvon Township is central to the Twin Valley region. Using the taxes to add police officers and improve the roads as that township proposes would be a benefit to all of us who travel through Caernarvon on a daily basis. And finally having a business at the proposed location would also increase security for all of us.

I know that there has been a great deal of fear mongering throughout the community at large, leading to a very vocal group who are against the casino. I am writing to speak for myself and others who see the benefit that jobs and a destination business can bring to this community.

I am hopeful that by writing to you, I can add my voice to those who are in favor of this proposed casino and help you to decide to approve it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donna Moyer". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Donna Moyer

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FROM THE DESK OF: MICHELE M. KING 1261 MORGANTOWN RD. MORGANTOWN, PA 19543

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Linda Lloyd  
Director of Hearings and Appeal  
Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board  
Harrisburg, PA

May 5, 2019

Dear Ms Lloyd,

I apologize for the delay in submitting this request for an addendum to my statement. As I mentioned in a previous email, my time & resources are limited unlike those of Penn National Gaming. I am respectfully requesting that you & the commissioners would accept and add this supplemental support information to my statement at the Public Input Hearing held on March 4 at the Caernarvon Two building in Caernarvon Twp, Berks County regarding Penn National Gaming's proposed cat-4 "mini-casino" for Morgantown Pa.

My reason for writing this request is in response to the chairman of the Caernarvon Township Board of Supervisors, Mr. Allen Styer's letter dated March 12 in follow up to the hearing. After reading his letter, I chose to read all letters submitted to the PGC, listen to all the speakers recorded on video, and read all the comments on both petitions. I could not allow the misleading information in his letter to the commissioners to go unchecked as it is being shared inaccurately in the news media as well.

Mr. Styer states: "During the public input hearing, the Gaming Control Board heard from a number of individuals, many of whom identified themselves as residents of the community. Subsequent to the hearing, the Board reviewed the list of citizens who commented and note that only six of the citizens who spoke out against the casino actually reside in Caernarvon Township, Berks County. ***The Board of Supervisors requests that greater weight be given to the position of actual township residents and their elected officials.***"

I am respectfully asking you to heed Mr. Styer's own words and "request that greater weight be given to the position of actual township residents." In every area shown in Table 3, it is obvious that the residents of Caernarvon Twp, are in fact opposed to a casino anywhere in our Twin Valley Communities. Clearly, Mr. Styer and the Caernarvon Twp Board of Supervisors are not representing the majority of residents in their municipality by voting unanimously on every matter that has been casino related during the previous year, up to and including their vote on the LDP presented to the BOS by PNG on March 12. I was present for the vote and submitted the exact same petition to them as presented at the March 4<sup>th</sup> hearing. However, in order to verify that information you will need to submit a right to know request as the meeting minutes are not published to date on the township website, an ongoing issue throughout this process for residents. We do not deny they did this work during their routine Board of Supervisor meetings but it was done with little extra effort during that time to notify and educate the residents about an issue they knew would likely be controversial.

The signees of the petition opposed to a casino in Caernarvon-Berks and ALL surrounding Twin Valley communities, request that you consider their voices, specifically those from Caernarvon-Berks, as shown in the concrete evidence given with this researched and accurate information and ultimately deny PNG's license for this location & ALL Twin Valley School District municipalities. We request that any future auction winners not be allowed to choose any municipality within the Twin Valley School District which includes Caernarvon Township, Robeson Township and New Morgan Borough in Berks County; West Nantmeal Township, Honey Brook Township, Elverson Borough and Honey Brook Borough in Chester County.

I shared in my original statement the concern for the demographics of this area beyond just the host community due to the population density of current casinos and other proposed mini-casinos in the state. That is why I implore the board to also consider the stance of those from the surrounding Twin Valley School district as well. As evidenced in table 2, the Twin Valley School District residents who responded also show stronger opposition than favor towards a casino in our larger community.

Additionally, I went one step further to determine to the best of my ability the stance of those who use the zip code of 19543 (Morgantown). As I stated in my original statement. I reside in neighboring Honey Brook Township but I do call Morgantown home as my address is 1261 Morgantown Rd. Morgantown, PA. Table 2 will show this data. This is not an “in addition to” number, merely another stat from the petitions only to show the opposition is clearly larger no matter how you compare the data. In each scenario, the ratio of opposed to in favor is clearly 2:1 opposed, the exception being in the letters submitted where they are clearly split slightly opposed to a casino once you factor out the majority of the letters being from union representation.

<b>TABLE 1-Caernarvon Township Berks County</b>	
includes the most up to date petition signatures as of 5.5.19	
Population (18+)	2877
Total Population	4064
Sample Size <sup>(1)</sup>	469
Margin of Error <sup>(2)</sup>	4%

- (1) This represents all the respondents regardless of opinion who signed a petition, wrote a letter or spoke at the hearing.
- (2) The probability that your sample accurately reflects the attitudes of your population. The industry standard is 95%. That is the standard used to determine our margin of error.

<b>TABLE 2-Morgantown Zip Code 19543</b>	
includes the most up to date petition signatures as of 5.5.19	
Population (18+)	4643
Petition Signees ONLY	529
In Favor	178
Opposed	351

- (1) This represents the signees of both petitions presented to PGC.
- (2) “Morgantown” (Zip: 19543) encompasses 5 municipalities from 3 different counties while Caernarvon-Berks encompasses addresses within 3 municipalities (Zips: 19540, 19520 & 19543). This data applies to Table 3 data as well when tabulating Caernarvon-Berks residents.
- (3) The margin of error w/ a 95% confidence rating remains at 4%.

<b>TABLE 3</b>	Totals	Neutral	In favor			Opposed to		
			Total	CB <sup>(1)</sup>	TVSD	Total	CB <sup>(1)</sup>	TVSD
(# as of 5.5.19)								
Petitions	2	0	178	88	39	1159	355	388
Letters to PGCB <sup>(2)</sup>	81	0	60 <sup>(3)</sup>	7	0	21	9	3
Speakers on 3.4 <sup>(2)</sup>	39	2 neutral 2 with ?s	13	3	1	22	6 <sup>(4)</sup>	6

(1) CB is an abbreviation for Caernarvon Township, Berks County. We chose to err on the side of those in favor, the petition in favor presented did not include a township option, so everyone who signed w/ Morgantown was assumed to be a Caernarvon-Berks resident. Those opposed were looked at more closely for township residency, as the online petition asked for it & many of the paper did attempt to clarify that data. However, for the sake of continuity and lack of additional time, those solely listing Morgantown in opposition were assumed to be CB residents as well. Elverson (Zip: 19520) addresses on both lists, were given the assumption of being Elverson Borough unless it was clearly known to be otherwise. The petition opposed to a cat-4 mini-casino in Caernarvon-Berks & ALL surrounding Twin Valley communities, had 17 in favor sign which was added to the total number in favor above. We also had approx. 40 duplicates that we factored out between both petitions. Each signature, we attempted to the best of our ability to count only once. And if a couple signed on the same line, we counted that as simply ONE signature, not 2 despite the 2 names listed. The CB numbers are NOT included in the TVSD numbers.

(2) Per the PGCB website <https://gamingcontrolboard.pa.gov/?p=141>

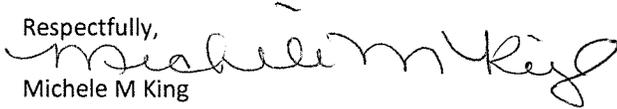
(3) 40 of these letters are clearly union representatives or apprentices, the majority of whom live over 45min-1 hr away. 5 additional appear to be from the unions as it is the same format. 5 of these were nearby residents, but it appears none reside in ANY of the TVSD municipalities, let alone the "host municipality" of CB.

(4) Additionally, 3 of the speakers are Caernarvon-Berks Property owners, paying taxes in that municipality. I was unable to confirm residency of one speaker who also spoke in opposition. Therefore I did not assign them a residency of CB or TVSD, though I do believe them to be one or the other.

\*all population data is from [www.censusreporter.org](http://www.censusreporter.org). The same source used in my original statement.

It is with the utmost respect for the responsibility of your job that I submit this data and request to accept and add it to my original statement on March 4 in both a soft and hard copy via mail as well as the attached additional signatures to the online petition. In doing so I once again implore you, on behalf of the host community residents and the rest of the signees on the petition opposing the proposed PNG cat-4 mini casino in Caernarvon Twp, Berks County, to heed Chairman Styer's request "that greater weight be given to the position of actual township resident" and deny Penn National Gaming's request for a cat-4 mini casino license for Caernarvon Township, Berks County and ALL surrounding Twin Valley Municipalities based on this researched and accurate data.

Respectfully,



Michele M King

at the request of [www.nocasinotwinvalley.com](http://www.nocasinotwinvalley.com) petition signees

cc:

David Barasch, Chairman

Obra S. Kernodle IV

Sean Logan, Commissioner

Kathy M. Manderino, Commissioner

T. Mark Mustio, Commissioner

Merritt C. Reitzel, Commissioner

Dante Santoni, Jr.

# Petition Addendum. Signatures received 3.4-5.5

First and Last Name	Opposed	City:	ZIP:	Township:	Comments:		
Aaron Carter	Yes	Narvon	17555	Caernarvon Lancaster	I am very much opposed to the Casino.		
Abigail Kerner	Yes	Birdsboro	19508	Robeson			
Alison rowland	Yes	Elverson	19520	West natmeal			
Amy Baisley	Yes	Morgantown	19543	Caernarvon			
Amy Pajewski	Yes	Elverson	19520	West Nantmeal			
Amy Swanson	Yes	Morgantown	19543	Caernarvon		Whatever is needed to stop this Casino I am in!	
Andrea kelley	No	Birdsboro	19508	Robeson			
Andrea Shoup	Yes	Morgantown	19543	Caernarvon			
Anna Carter	Yes	Morgantown	19543	Robeson			
Ashleigh Brown	Yes	Morgantown	19543	Robeson Township			
Ashley schnoke	Yes	Morgantown	19543	Robeson			
Ben Horning	Yes	Downingtown	19335	Uwchlan			
Bonnie Blevins	Yes	Morgantown	19543	Caernarvon			This township belongs to the people. The township supervisors were elected by these people. The casino is represented by business that does not live here. When the supervisors start to represent business and not the people who elected them, this is a crime. Morgantown is being torn apart by businesses who are destroying our town. Rite aid took out our historic district. We didn't need the warehouse and we don't need a casino.
Bonnie Kline	Yes	Mohnton	19540	Robeson			
Breeana Baldwin	Yes	Honey brook	19344	Chester			
Brenda Brundege	Yes	new holland	17557	New Holland Borough	I thought we should build up the community not tear it down		
Brenda Shirk	Yes	Morgantown PA	19543	Caernarvon			
Brian Esh	Yes	Honey Brook	19344		Please don't ruin our community!		
Bridget Raymond	Yes	Morgantown	19543	Berks	Don't want to support gambling in our community.		
Bryan Denlinger	Yes	Morgantown	19543	Caernarvon			
Christina Kurtz	Yes	Elverson	19520	Caernarvon Berks			
Christina Queen	Yes	Elverson	19520	Warwick			
Chuck Kimball	Yes	Birdsboro	19508	Union			
Claudia Beiler	Yes	Honey Brook	19344	Honey Brook Borough			
Cynthia Carter	Yes	Morgantown	19543	Caernarvon		I own property in Morgantown and am very much opposed to the Casino. This industry will take money from families and cause more brokenness and destruction in the homes and Families in this area. I am also very concerned about the human trafficking that has been uncovered and would likely be fed by this Casino. Supervisor please do what you can to pull out and listen to the overwhelming response of the residence of the area being AGAINST Casino coming to Morgantown.	
Daniel Hildebeitel	Yes	Honey Brook	19344	Honey Brook			
Daniel McCalicher	Yes	Morgantown	19543	Caernarvon			
Daniel Roberts	Yes	morgantown	19543	Robeson			
Darelle esh	Yes	Honey brook	19344		No casino!		
Darlene Flaud	Yes	New Holland	17557	Piques valley	I am opposed to a Casino in Caernarvon. The casino will make poverty and crime around the area increase		
Dave Kurtz	Yes	Morgantown PA	19543	Honeybrook			
David Charles	Yes	Morgantown	19543	Caernarvon			
David Shoup	Yes	Morgantown	19543	Caernarvon Berks			
David Turley	Yes	Morgantown	19543	Caernarvon			
						Where's the impartial 3rd party impact study?	

David Wright	Yes	East Earl,PA	17519 East Earl
Deb Kochel	Yes	Morgantown	19544 Robeson
Delana Swisher	Yes	Narvon	17555 Brecknock
Doris Bennett	Yes	Elverson	19520 Chester Country
Doug and Jana Sheaffer	Yes	Narvon	17555 Caernarvon
Doug Yoder	Yes	Elverson	19520 West Nantmeal
Dustin Eager	Yes	Mohnton	19540 Brecknock
Edith Esh	Yes	Morgantown	19543 Caernarvon, Lancaster County
Elise Phillips	Yes	Elverson	19520 Caernarvon
Elizabeth Pershall	Yes	elverson	19520 West Nantmeal
Elnore Herr	Yes	Morgantown	19520 Caernarvon Lancaster
Emilee Booz	Yes	Elverson	19520 Warwick
Emily Rowland	Yes	Elverson	19520 West Nantmeal
Erin Nafziger	Yes	Elverson	19520 Carnarvon
Ethan Martin	Yes	Morgantown	19543 Robeson
Faith Martin	Yes	Morgantown	19543 Robeson
G Woodward	Yes	Glenmoore	19343 Wallace
Gabriel Pershall	Yes	Waukesha	53188 Waukesha
Gail Craig	Yes	Honey Brook	19344 Honey Brook
Gladys Toth	Yes	Downingtown	19335 Caln
Glen and Mary Jo Trivits	Yes	Elverson	19520 Elverson Borough
Heather Moll	Yes	Narvon	17555 Caernarvon
HELEN MACMINN	Yes	Mohnton	19540 ROBESON
Ian Stauffer	Yes	Elverson	19520 Caernarvon
Ingrid Dunlap	Yes	Morgantown	19543 Caernarvon

I live close to this proposal. I shop and do a lot of business in the Morgantown Elverson area. I grew up just outside of Morgantown in Geigertown. This casino has no place in our quiet, idyllic community. I can assure you that if this casino is built on the site proposed, that I will most definitely take my business to the Ephrata and greater Reading/Exeter area. The Caernarvon area is an area of rich history, strong faith and family ideals. We have been betrayed by even the thought of this casino being built here. It should have been a resounding no. Instead, those elected to protect their community have instead betrayed us for the promise of big money and tax revenue. Rest assured, I have family who live in Caernarvon Twp and many many friends. This will polarize their vote in the next election. Your seats are not safe. Your seats will be challenged over this issue. We local conservatives, including ones like myself with vested interests, will dump our time, our money and our resources into making sure everyone of you is replaced as soon as possible with people who more truly align with the values of this quiet country community. Do NOT put this casino in Morgantown. You will begin a cascading series of events that will prove detrimental to the success of any of your further political aspirations. I assure you.

This is a business whose sole purpose is to feed on the weaknesses of people. It brings NO benefit to anyone. Greed at its finest.

We don't feel this would be good for our community

CasiNO!!!

Previous resident of Caernarvon (less than 1 year ago). Teach at a school down the road from where the Casino would be. Morgantown does NOT need a casino

I have NEVER seen a casino bring prosperity to the neighborhood it is in. Empty promises, every single time. I was born in Reading and raised in Elverson and Morgantown. I am on the verge of moving back with my family. I want them to grow up in the same area I did. Putoing this casino would make me think twice about living in the area.

Could I suggest an alternative? There is a midwest CO. wanting to move into PA called Menards. It would create direct competition with Lows and bring new jobs into the area that everyone can get behind and promote the community.

I don't believe a casino will be a good business to add to the community in Morgantown. Stop the casino!!

I believe the casino would be a detriment to the town and bring unwanted suspicious activity

Ivan Blank	Yes	Morgantown	19543 Caernarvon
Jaime Bartlett	Yes	Elverson	19520
James Metzler III	Yes	Morgantown	19520 Caernarvon
Janelle Lieberher	Yes	Lancaster	17602 West Lampeter
Jennifer Gezon	Yes	Pottstown	19465 East Nantmeal
Jessica Mattson	Yes	Morgantown	19543 Caernarvon
Jessie niethammer	Yes	Birdsboro	19508 Robeson
Joanna stoltzfus	Yes	Gap	17527 Salisbury

I am strongly opposed to a casino in this lovely rural town that I have called home for most of my life. I have chosen to live in this town to avoid this type of industry and am appalled that it is being considered for this town. Absolutely HATE the idea of this happening.

John I Layton Jr	Yes	Elverson	19520 Elverson
Josiah	Yes	Mohnton	19540 Brecknock
Joy Hildebeitel	Yes	Honey Brook	19344 Honey Brook

I am 100% in support of progress, growth and development. But, there are places better suited and much more capable of handling all the requirements that would come with having a casino. There area is growing, but at it's own pace and that can't be forced. We are not ready or able to accommodate a casino. Thank you.

Julie Boughter	Yes	Honey Brook	19344 Honey Brook
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Lived in Honey Brook Township my entire life, 55 years, I hate seeing this beautiful country being developed.

Julie Taylor	Yes	Morgantown	19543 Caernarvon Township- Lancaster
Ken Herr	Yes	Morgantown	19543 Caernarvon
Kenneth Thompson	Yes	Elverson	19520 Elverson
Kim Erskine	Yes	Oxford	19363 Upper Oxford
Kimberly Layton	Yes	Elverson	19520 West Nantmeal
Laura Ann Stauffer	Yes	Elverson PA	19520 Berks County
Leah Shoup	Yes	Elizabethtown	17022 Mount Joy township
Leslie Turley	Yes	Morgantown	19543 Carrnarvon
Linda Taylor	Yes	Morgantown	19543 Caernarvon Lancaster
Linda Turner	Yes	Elverson	19520 East Nantmeal
Lindsey Groller	Yes	Birdsboro	19508 Borough of birdsboro
Lois	Yes	Morgantown	19543 Caernarvon
Lori Helms	Yes	Morgantown	19543 Caernarvon
Lori Taylor	Yes	Morgantown	19543 caernarvon
Maria Faber	Yes	Morgantown	19543 Robeson

As someone who lives less than 3 miles from where the proposed casino would be built, I am very worried about the changes that a casino would force on our community. I grew up in Morgantown. I wouldn't trade that for the world. It's an area that is beautiful, safe, and family friendly. Building a casino would change all of that.

Elverson

No Casino!!

Marian barnett	Yes	Mohnton	19540 Brecknock
Marijo Campbell	Yes	Morgantown	19543 Caernarvon

Although we do not live in Carnevom we do work and shop there. All well as socialize. I am opposed to the casino based on the trouble that will come with it. It is out of place in this rural community.

Mark Moyer	Yes	Elverson	19520 West Nantmeal
Mark Richard Stephens	Yes	Elverson	19520 Caernarvon

I am opposed to the casino due to impact on surrounding communities that will have no tax benefit, and yet will have an increase need for police force. Casino studies post opening have demonstrated and criminal and social impact on the community hosting and the surrounding communities. The increase tax revenue to the hosting community never fully offset the additional burden.

Matt Carter	Yes	Morgantown	19543 Caernarvon
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I own property in Morgantown and am very much opposed to the Casino.

Matthew King	Yes	Elverson	19520 Warwick
Meghan Wenrich	Yes	Morgantown	19543 Carnarvon
Melissa Patton	Yes	Reading	19606 Exeter
Melissa Stoltzfus	Yes	Honey brook	19344 Chester county
Merv Petersheim	Yes	Honey Brook	19344 Honey Brook
Michael Robbins	Yes	Morgantown	19543-775: Caernarvon
Mike Dunlap	Yes	Morgantown	19543 Caernarvon
Natalie Moyer	Yes	Reading	19606 Exeter

The casino is at odds with our community's core values.

NO!

A casino isn't something that belongs in Morgantown

Norma Denlinger	Yes	Morgantown	19543 Caernarvin	Don't want gambling in our community.
Patricia Caridi	Yes	Downingtown, Pa	19335 East Brandywine	
Rachael Puccino	Yes	Morgantown	19543 Caernarvon- Berks	
Rachel Mast	Yes	Morgantown	19543 Caernarvon Berks	
Rebecca Beam	Yes	Elverson	19520	
Rebecca Russell	No	Glenmoore	19343 Upper Uwchlan	
Rich Faber	Yes	Morgantown	19543 Robeson	
Robert miller	Yes	Blandon	19510 Maiden creek	
Ronald David Pershall Jr.	Yes	Mohnton	19540 Robeson	
Ryan Carter	Yes	Morgantown	19543 Robeson	Please don't build a casino in our town. It doesn't fit or culture of good hard working people.
Samuel C Petersheim	Yes	Elverson	19520 West Nantmeal	I am opposed to the casino. It is not the type of activity I want in the community where I'm raising my children.
Sandy rutt	Yes	Narvon, Pa	17555 Caernarvon	
Sarah rowland	Yes	Elverson	19520 West Nantmeal	
Shanna Glick	Yes	East earl	17519 Earl	A casino will cause more people to go in debt, we don't need that. We need places that will encourage a good work environment. We need businesses that will support families, not tear them a part.
Stephen Gerhart	Yes	Pottstown	19465 Warwick	The casino in Valley Forge is already "serving" the area for public gaming. It's 30 minutes away and readily available to this demographic. It also fits into the area that it was built because its a shopping hub (King of Prussia Mall) in the region. In comparison Morgantown is a small rural community where everybody knows everyone, filled with small businesses and mom & pop stores. This is not a metropolis or a booming area for a casino to be built. Our largest city to our west, Reading is already a struggling city with poverty, drugs & violence. Building a casino here, would not help the situation there.
Thomas Taylor	No	Morgantown	19543 Caernarvon	
TIN	Yes	Elverson	19520 Honey Brook	
Tracey Philips	Yes	Elverson	19520 West Nantmeal	
Vanessa Buttery	Yes	Morgantown	19543 Caernarvon	
Wanda King	Yes	Glenmoore	19343 East Nantmeal	
Wendy McDevitt	Yes	Morgantown	19543 Carnarvon	
William Conrad	Yes	Morgantown	19543 caernarvon	
William Orf	Yes	Orwigsburg	17961 West Brunswick	
Linda Austin	Yes	Elverson	19520 Honey Brook	Don't need a casino would bring a lot of crime to the area! We need something for the children and teens to do!
Sherry Flaxenburg	Yes	Birdsboro	19508 Robeson	
Padge Montgomery	Yes	Elverson	19520 Elverson borough	
Kate Charles	Yes	Morgantown	19543 Caernarvon	
Steven Leever	Yes	Morgantown	19543 Caernarvon	

PENNSYLVANIA  
PASTORS NETWORK



*Standing in the Gap for Truth.*

Linda Lloyd  
Director of Hearings and Appeal  
Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board  
Harrisburg, PA

Dear Ms. Lloyd,

I would respectfully request that you and the Commissioners accept this addendum to my verbal and written copy testimony of March 4, 2019 before the Gaming Control Board in Caernarvon Township (Berks). In the genuine interest in assisting the Commissioners to fulfill their administrative duties regarding the Class 4 licenses and particularly the Morgantown application, I am submitting this letter. I know that the Commissioners are obligated to fulfill two primary duties. One is to ensure that the financial interests of the Commonwealth are achieved and that licensees can in fact produce the amount of revenue that is expected or promised. Second, to consider the impact to the community directly affected by the placement of a casino. For this addendum, I would like to submit considerations that speak to the matter of revenue reliability.

Governor Wolf has indicated that his goal for gaming expansion is for it to create new revenue, not simply move funds from “one bucket called gambling to another.” If this is what the Legislature and Executive Branches of the Commonwealth of PA expect from the gambling expansion bill, then Morgantown as a location for a new Class 4 casino raises significant and serious doubts as to its ability to meet those expectations.

Penn National is assuming that if they open a casino at the Morgantown exchange of the PA Turnpike that a new clientele from the western Philadelphia suburbs will be enticed to drive west on the Turnpike to this new facility. At best, this projection is a ‘hope’ unsubstantiated by prior similar experiences elsewhere and further complicated by the fact that a pre-existing Penn National casino sits a mere 2 miles inside the minimum legal distance of 25 miles and located just 3 exits to the East in Valley

Forge. Thus far, 'compelling' or convincing financial data has not reasonably been presented to prove that the Governor's warning of not simply moving funds from 'one bucket to another' will not occur. The previous cited concern is further complicated by the fact that the two Turnpike Exchanges to the East of Morgantown, (Downingtown and Malvern) are already geographically closer to Valley Forge than to Morgantown. Penn National has thus far not made a convincing case as to why Morgantown, located further from Valley Forge and with absolutely nothing other expansive amounts of acreage in Farmland Preserve, low population count and Amish populations in the midst of counter culture demographics, would present any superior reason to Valley Forge with its shopping, restaurants, denser population and established casino.

In addition, the only other access route to Morgantown would be via I -176 north to Allentown – an approximately 1-hour (50 mile) ride. There is simply no convincing argument that traffic will flow from Allentown to Morgantown – a dead end location, when a nearly exact time and distance exists between Allentown and Valley Forge or Allentown to Philadelphia with unlimited other activities.

Perhaps contributing to the more unconvincing data regarding the financial credibility of a new Morgantown Casino are the words of Penn National Gaming itself in a quote by Eric Shippers, Senior VP for Public Affairs and Government Relations, in a Dec 2017 quote as recorded on Play Pennsylvania.com. *"This (vote of the legislature to expand the mini casino licenses and online gambling) was a money grab, plain and simple. .... So, they've done it in a way that will result in significant cannibalization..."* The financial concern raised by Penn National in regard to the fear of 'cannibalism' is real, and legitimate enough to be seriously considered by the Gaming Control Board in the Morgantown license application. This comment by PNG's Eric Shippers is further bolstered by the fact that PNG was also in a legal challenge with the Commonwealth to stop the implementation of a mini-casino so as to employ both defensive and offensive strategy. According to a quote by Eric Shippers in Jan 2018 in 3 CBS Philly, *"And so we have bid (Morgantown) in a way that we think maximizes the opportunity to play defense with one eye towards offense."* The other comment of significance that adds further doubt to the financial ability of a casino in Morgantown to accomplish its revenue goals was made by Control Board spokesman Doug Harbach in January 2018 as well, who said, *"...southeastern Pennsylvania is not likely to host a mini-casino, because of the concentration of existing casinos and the new law's provisions that protect them."* Taken together, these statements add validity to unconvincing data being presented to support credible tax revenue estimates to the Commonwealth or to the Morgantown community.

Yet, there is another looming and inevitable factor that contributes to the lack of confidence in Penn Gaming's claim that the Turnpike location at Morgantown will be the key to assured casino traffic. That is the very real financial condition of the PA Turnpike Commission and its guarantees of dramatically escalating Turnpike tolls over the foreseeable future through 2044! Since most Philly suburbs can access Valley Forge without using the Turnpike and in a shorter amount of time, it will be difficult at best for Penn National to persuade potential patrons to come to Morgantown either in the short-term and increasingly in the long-term.

From a historical perspective, the proposed casino in Morgantown is similar to the one that Penn National built in Perryville, Maryland several years ago. Perryville is only about an hour's drive

south of Morgantown. While it is a rural community, Perryville is located directly off of I-95. Initially the casino did fine, but after larger casinos opened up in Baltimore, its revenue sank. People simply weren't willing to make the drive up I-95. The casino has had to remove a total of 650 slot machines due to lack of demand. The town of Perryville and the state of Maryland have not received nearly as much money as Penn National told them to expect when the casino opened.

In addition, Penn National recently announced the closure of their Resorts Casino in Tunica, Mississippi. Gaming expansion was passed in nearby Arkansas, and the competition drew business away from Tunica. The closure will not have a big effect on Penn National's revenue, but the town of Tunica is struggling. They are collecting far less tax money from casinos than they once were, and they are having a hard time making up the difference.

Similarly, if Penn National invests in a casino in Morgantown and it fails, while Penn National could afford to take the hit, Morgantown couldn't. Thus far, Penn National has resisted calls to provide Morgantown with a backup plan. They have given Caernarvon Berks an estimate of how much tax revenue the casino may generate, but no guarantee that the township will receive anywhere near that much money. If the township budgets according to Penn National's estimate, but does not receive that amount of money, the community will assuredly be negatively impacted.

Penn National's strategy is comparable to the business plan that Crossroads Gaming's submitted in their 2006 application for a Category 2 casino in Gettysburg. When that application was denied, the Board noted that Gettysburg alone could not sustain a casino. Crossroads' plan hinged on attracting patrons from Baltimore and Washington D.C., but a Gettysburg casino would have been no closer to these areas than the existing casino in Charlestown, West Virginia. A February 2007 PGCB report states that *"...the Board was not presented with any credible evidence to demonstrate how much of the Charlestown business could be expected to leave that facility and travel north to Gettysburg."*

What credible evidence does Penn National have that casino goers in southeastern PA will be willing to leave Valley Forge and come to Morgantown? Additionally, when gambling becomes available online and at gas stations, this fact may well further discourage people from driving out of their way to go to a casino.

Based on just the questionable revenue projection from Penn National Gaming to the Commonwealth for Category 4 casino application and the risk to Caernarvon Township/Berks in Morgantown, I would request that Board Members of the Gaming Control Board reject the application on these grounds and look for a more predictable location elsewhere in the Commonwealth. If Penn National fails to achieve the revenue estimates it has set, the casino would become a burden on the Morgantown area. This would negatively affect not just the community in Caernarvon Berks, but also the surrounding townships in 3 different Counties.

For these financial and revenue reasons – not even to mention the incongruous nature of locating a casino in Morgantown – the Gateway to the historic Amish communities, I would ask that the PA Gaming Control Board accept this further consideration as an addendum to my submitted testimony to the Board during the March 4 public hearing in Morgantown.

Respectfully Submitted,



Hon. Sam Rohrer, President  
Pennsylvania Pastors Network  
Former member, PA House representing Morgantown and surrounding areas

cc:

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