

**CIVIL WAR PRESERVATION TRUST  
NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION  
NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
PRESERVATION PENNSYLVANIA**

September 17, 2010

The Honorable Edward Rendell  
225 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Dear Governor Rendell,

As a national coalition concerned for the future of Gettysburg, we write to thank you for reaffirming your opposition to the highly controversial Gettysburg casino proposal. We could not agree more with your recent statement on the Pennsylvania Cable Network in which you told a concerned citizen that in regard to the casino, “Well, I’m still opposed to it . . . I just think it’s the wrong place for a casino.”

This beautifully echoes your wise words from 2005, during the last controversy over a Gettysburg casino, when you said “I wouldn’t want a casino two blocks from the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia and if it were my decision, I wouldn’t want it anywhere close to the historic area of Gettysburg.” Then as now, we whole-heartedly agree — *Gettysburg is no place for a casino.*

We applaud your leadership and your decision to once again add your voice to the growing chorus of Pennsylvanians and Americans who find the idea of a casino one-half mile from some of our nation’s most hallowed ground simply unacceptable. In recent months, many well-respected organizations and media outlets have also condemned the idea including more than 275 professional historians, the American Legion, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, the *York Daily Dispatch*, the *Scranton Times-Tribune*, the Gettysburg Ministerium — and the cast of academics, military heroes and celebrities who donated their time and services for a testimonial video presented at the Gaming Board hearing on August 31 entitled, “The Gettysburg Legacy”. [Watch their testimony at: [civilwar.org/gettysburglegacy](http://civilwar.org/gettysburglegacy)].

Their individual efforts joined the scores of opponents who testified at the hearing on August 31 and the more than 30,000 American citizens nationwide who have petitioned the Gaming Control Board to reject the Mason-Dixon application, making this application the *most controversial* by far of those under consideration by the Gaming Control Board.

(Over)

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The concerns of these organizations, citizens and this coalition do not stem from an opposition to gambling per se. Instead, the primary concern is ensuring that nationally significant historic sites — like the Gettysburg Battlefield — are treated with the reverence and respect they deserve. Moreover, opening a casino at Gettysburg could significantly increase traffic through the area, generate more incompatible large-scale commercial development, and would likely necessitate eye-catching signage out of place in what has up to now been a relatively undeveloped area.

Additionally, economic experts agree, Gettysburg National Military Park already provides a strong, sustainable economic engine for the area, attracting more than 1 million visitors in 2009 alone. A casino will undoubtedly conflict with the proven economic engine of heritage tourism and development compatible with and respectful of that heritage.

For the reasons outlined above, we thank you for standing up for Gettysburg and demanding its place in history is respected. Saying no to a Gettysburg casino is a legacy you can be proud of — and we know the Gaming Control Board will value your opinion on the matter.

Respectfully,



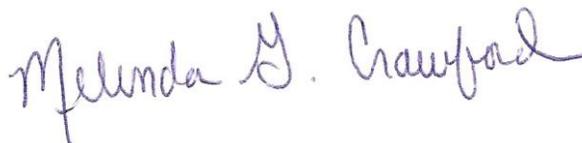
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