

June 2010

Mr. Gregory C. Fajt, Chairman  
Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board  
P.O. Box 69060  
Harrisburg, PA 17106-9060

Dear Chairman Fajt:

As you consider applications for Category 3 Gaming Licenses, the undersigned historical organizations urge you to reject the proposed Mason-Dixon Resort & Casino gaming facility proposed near Gettysburg, ½ mile from Gettysburg National Military Park (NMP). Collectively, the undersigned organizations represent over 35,000 professional historians and researchers, many of whom specialize in the history of the Civil War.

By its very nature, the proposed casino unavoidably conflicts with the essential meaning of Gettysburg's place in American history and the respectful atmosphere that the Borough of Gettysburg and Gettysburg NMP seek to foster and to market.

We feel strongly that Gettysburg is a unique historic and cultural treasure deserving of our protection. Gettysburg belongs to all Americans equally—future generations no less than those of us alive today. We concur with the judgment of Governor Ed Rendell who said in 2005, during the last controversy, that, “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.” Governor Rendell was correct in his thinking and we agree that it is our solemn duty to protect this resource — and appeal to what President Abraham Lincoln called “the better angels of our nature,” rather than spoiling this hallowed ground.

During the last application period, the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board repeatedly stated that public opinion would be among the categories considered during the licensing process. And so, as was the case in 2006, the people of Pennsylvania and the entire nation are once again clearly stating that the very idea of putting a casino so close to the Battlefield at Gettysburg is simply incomprehensible.

Today, our historical organizations are proud to be counted among the many thousands who have made publicly known our opposition to Mason-Dixon's plan to put a casino at Gettysburg. There are many places in Pennsylvania to build a casino, *but there's only one Gettysburg*. We respectfully urge you and your fellow board members to defend Gettysburg for all Americans by denying the Mason-Dixon Resort & Casino application.

Sincerely,

American Historical Association  
National Coalition for History  
National Council on Public History

Organization of American Historians  
Society for Military History  
Southern Historical Association