



CIVIL WAR PRESERVATION TRUST

SAVING AMERICA'S CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELDS www.civilwar.org

James Lighthizer
President

LATEST NEWS ON THE GETTYSBURG CASINO BATTLE!

April 30, 2010

Dear Friend,

This time . . . it could get ugly.

I'm speaking, of course, about the Civil War Preservation Trust's latest effort to prevent a casino from threatening Gettysburg.

And now that the pro-casino group of investors (called "Mason-Dixon Resorts, LLC.") has formally applied for the gaming license that would allow them to move forward with their plans . . .

. . . their gloves have come off.

Four years ago, when we squared off against nearly the same folks (who wanted to build a sprawling 3,000-slot machine gambling complex about a mile from the battlefield), one of the lead pro-casino guys darkly warned, "I hope you [preservationists] have good lawyers."

Now that they are seeking to open a casino about a half-mile from the battlefield, they have already ludicrously attacked the Civil War Preservation Trust – even going so far as to publicly accuse us of engaging in illegal activity simply because we have asked people all across America who care about the future of Gettysburg to write and call elected officials to voice their opposition!

I wonder if those people have ever heard of a little thing called the First Amendment?

Frankly, my friend, with the casino advocates crowd still stinging from the defeat we inflicted upon them a few years ago, I expect this type of strong-arm intimidation campaign is only the beginning, and as I said before . . . it could get ugly.

But in the end, I'm not worried about whatever type of thuggery they might throw at CWPT, or even me personally.

That's because I know you and I are on the right side of this fight . . . the fight to preserve, protect and defend not only one of the most important Civil War battlefields, but also one of the world's most important historic sites.

I thought it might be helpful to quickly jot down exactly what I believe each side is fighting for, and this is what I came up with. See if you agree:

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What We're Fighting For:

Preserving the sanctified, dignified and reverent atmosphere of Gettysburg, arguably America's best known historic site.

Protecting the existing stores, shops, restaurants, museums and other businesses that depend upon tourism dollars from battlefield visitors.

A safe, family-friendly outdoor classroom, where Americans of all ages can go to learn vital lessons about honor, courage and our Nation's rich history.

To keep the Gettysburg Battlefield as a protected, valued place that gives back far more to visitors than it takes from them, enriching their lives forever.

2

vs. What Casino Operators are Fighting For:

The chance to cash in on the "Gettysburg" name, cheapening the sacrifices of those who fought and died there.

The chance to siphon off limited tourism dollars to their poker and blackjack tables, their hotel rooms, their restaurant and, ultimately, their pockets!

A tacky, adults-only lair that (evidence indicates) will eventually attract more pawn shops, crime, gambling addiction, check-cashing stores and dead-end jobs.

Turning Gettysburg into a place that takes far more from visitors than it gives, enriching a handful of speculators.

With a straight face, the leaders of the pro-casino effort are cruelly trying to exploit the poor economy, by saying that their operation is primarily about "creating jobs" for the local community.

Sure, they may create a handful of low paying jobs, but how many more jobs will they kill in the Gettysburg community, once repeat battlefield visitors decide to avoid the traffic and "Atlantic City" atmosphere that will be evident?

The "Mason-Dixon" folks have always seemed to labor under the delusion that battlefield visitors will make the best gamblers . . . that folks fresh off a day of leaning about Winfield Scott Hancock or George Pickett will abandon their kids for an evening of craps, slots and cards.

Well, that got me thinking, and I came up with a little story I'd like to share with you. With apologies to Charles Dickens, it's called, "A Tale of Two Addicts." One of the characters – while fictional – is perfectly believable; the other character I think you know pretty well:

Hello, my name is Jim Lighthizer, and I'm addicted to Gettysburg.

"Hello, my name is Joe Casino, and I'm addicted to gambling."

I've spent countless hours reading and learning about the battle. I just can't help myself!

"I spend countless hours at the card tables and slot machines. I just can't help myself either!"

I already have so many books on Gettysburg and the Civil War that I sometimes have to sneak them into the house so my wife won't see them.

"I've lost so much money at the casino that I've had to keep the amounts secret from my wife."

I sometimes go to the battlefield for days on end, lost in the study of those fascinating times,



inspiring events and heroic people. My family understands my need to periodically escape into the 19th century, and they even tolerate it and encourage me, because every time I come back from a battlefield, I am a better person.

“I sometimes go to the casino for days on end, lost in the pursuit of an inside straight, the “high” of winning (even though the “house” always wins more), and complimentary drinks. My family just doesn’t understand my need to be here. If I could hit a hot streak, I know I could win back the kids’ college fund and our retirement account. Boy, that’d sure shut ‘em up.”

Whenever I go to Gettysburg, I love to eat at one of the local restaurants, maybe visit the cigar shop, perhaps even buy a book or two – I can keep them at the office and my wife will never know!

“When I’m in the casino, I often forget to even eat. Sometimes, if I’ve really been playing a long time, they’ll comp me a club sandwich! Once I’m “felted,” – that’s slang for “out of chips, and down to the felt-covered table” – I’ll finally head home. Whaddya mean ‘There’s more to do in Gettysburg?’ I just dropped \$500 in your casino – what more do you want out of me?”

That’s the end of my little story . . . but the final chapters of Gettysburg’s future are being written out right now, and it is still undecided which of those two “addicts” will dominate its future.

As elevated as we and the other pro-preservation groups have tried to keep the discourse, the other side has come out swinging, and I expect the invective to only get worse.

But as they spew their vitriol at CWPT and the brave, local volunteers of No Casino Gettysburg, I publicly request that those who would seek to open a casino nearly on the doorstep of the Gettysburg battlefield – in the spirit of honesty and integrity – to truthfully answer these questions:

Would you rather live next door to the protected Gettysburg Battlefield . . . or next door to your own casino?

Where would you want your own grandchildren to be able to run, play and learn? On the hallowed ground of Pickett’s Charge, Little Round Top and Devil’s Den . . . or in the parking lot of your own casino?

Finally, where would you want to take your own families on vacation? A meaningful tour of a beautiful, compelling historic site . . . or will you take them on a tour of the slot machines, the Texas Hold-‘em tables and wind up at the bar?

Well, if you wouldn’t take your own children and grandchildren, parents or aged grandparents to your own casino for a vacation, then you have no right to desecrate the place where millions of Americans WILL take their families – with honor, devotion and gratitude.

My friend, to defeat these misguided people once again, I will need to raise a special war chest of funds that will fund our grassroots efforts to counter their attacks and misinformation. (Case in point: As I was wrapping up this letter, they just released their doctored-up economic impact study claiming their casino will generate 900 new jobs!! I guess they’re planning on putting in an airplane assembly line, too! If it wasn’t so serious an issue, you’d have to laugh!)

But I understand that some CWPT members would prefer that their gifts go exclusively to

purchase land, and not go toward activities like this – I want to honor those wishes. That’s why I am asking you today – if you do want to be involved in the crucial fight to prevent a casino at Gettysburg – to make a special gift to this appeal.

Plus, because the Gettysburg battlefield belongs to all Americans, I ask you to immediately sign the enclosed petition, expressing your opinion that Gettysburg is no place for a casino. Please also consider copying it and circulating it among your family, friends and colleagues who share our concern about a gambling den next to America’s most hallowed battleground.

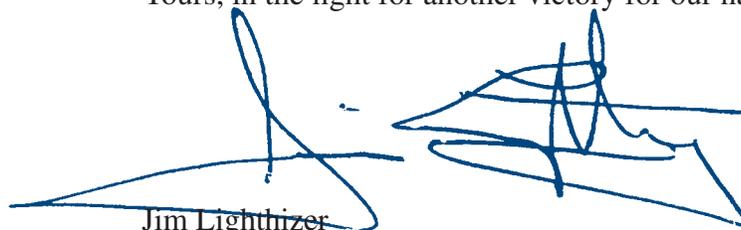
I cannot stress to you how important your signed petition is – we must be able to show that Gettysburg belongs to all Americans, and that citizens from every state want to see it protected.

So please, to help CWPT raise a battle fund of at least \$25,000 to help take on “Mason Dixon Resorts,” will you commit to a generous gift of \$25, \$50, \$100, \$250, \$500 or even \$1,000 today?

Please make your generous donation in honor of those who fought there, those who rest there still, those of us who treasure that hallowed ground, but especially for those who have not yet been there. Please help CWPT protect and preserve Gettysburg for all Americans, for all time.

Don’t forget . . . sign your petition and return it to me along with your generous donation within the next five to ten days. I cannot thank you enough.

Yours, in the fight for another victory for our nation,



Jim Lighthizer
President

P.S. Let’s make “Mason Dixon Resorts” regret they ever decided to “Gamble on Gettysburg!” Please let me hear back from you as soon as possible! Thanks again!