



NEWS RELEASE

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Announcement of Formation of Coalition to Fight North Jersey Casinos; Insights on Economic Impacts on Southern New Jersey

TRENTON, NJ – The formation of the No North Jersey Casinos Coalition was announced today by its chairwoman Debra P. DiLorenzo, president & CEO, Chamber of Commerce Southern New Jersey. “We have already signed up 300 like-minded businesses, business organizations, public officials, labor leaders and citizens who believe gaming belongs in Atlantic City – period.” The Coalition’s mission is to defeat the public question allowing for construction of two new casinos in North Jersey.

DiLorenzo was joined by business and labor leaders who provided insights and data on the devastating regional economic impact of expanding gaming outside of Atlantic City.

Mark Giannantonio, president & CEO, Resorts Casino Hotel provided his perspective as a gaming executive who has spent his entire 34-year career in Atlantic City. “After a few tough years brought about by out-of-state gaming competition and the economic downturn, gaming and tourism in Atlantic City are poised for growth,” said Giannantonio.

Giannantonio continued, “Casinos are transforming themselves into full service entertainment and meeting destinations, and have invested significant capital. Resorts alone has spent more than \$100 million to bring Margaritaville Entertainment Complex to the city, as well as significant guest room and restaurant renovations, major casino floor upgrades and a new conference center.”

“North Jersey casinos will stop and even reverse this positive momentum, which is particularly troubling for the entire South Jersey economy,” said Giannantonio.

A study, authored by Cory Morowitz, managing partner, GGH/Morowitz Gaming Advisors, examines the existing state of the gaming market in the Northeast, the impact of current and future out of state competition on Atlantic City casinos, and the impact that in-state competition would have upon the eight Atlantic City casinos, as well as the entire South Jersey region. “Gaming in northern New Jersey will quash vital investment, close casinos, reduce employment and destabilize an entire region,” said Morowitz.

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Bob McDevitt, president, UNITE HERE! Local 54, which represents service workers at casino hotels in Atlantic City said, "Thousands of UNITE HERE employees have lost their jobs since 2006 as a result of ever expanding regional competition from surrounding states. Now, after Atlantic City's casinos have endured a decade of contraction the industry has stabilized. To allow gaming in North Jersey at the same moment we're experiencing a fragile recovery would condemn the remaining casino workers to another period of closures and job loss. It is doubtful Atlantic City could recover from another decade of the contraction which would result from in-state competition."

Joe Kelly, president, Greater Atlantic City Chamber of Commerce stated, "Virtually no area business has been immune to the ripple effect of the recent closure of four casinos. For one area vendor, a small business, who has been open for 25 years, sales plummeted and as a result, four full time positions, and eight part time positions were eliminated. Today, the company operates with just two part time employees, plus the owner. With additional casino closures that would inevitably result from the expansion of gaming in North Jersey, the owner indicated that his company would need to move out of state or cease operations altogether."

Local business owner Mark Kramer, president, Kramer Beverage said, "Kramer Beverage has been in business for 92 years and I am the fourth generation member of the Kramer Family to lead the company. We started in Atlantic City back in 1924 and have always been in Atlantic County. We suffered through significant losses in September 2014 when four casinos closed. We have finally seen a return to growth in Atlantic City. If North Jersey casinos are approved, I believe the impact on Atlantic City, and all of South Jersey, will be devastating. With tens of thousands more people out of work, many of our customers would lose substantial business and be forced to close their doors. Ultimately, my business will be impacted, with reductions in sales which could have a negative impact on my own workforce."

"Our business and labor communities and residents feel strongly about protecting the Atlantic City gaming industry's 38-year legacy that has provided so many families with good paying jobs, and billions of dollars in tax revenues to support programs for seniors and disabled residents throughout the state. The Coalition and its members will work vigorously to defeat the ballot question on November 8," said DiLorenzo. "This ballot question will determine the future of Atlantic City, Atlantic County, Southern New Jersey and, ultimately, the entire State of New Jersey."

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The **No North Jersey Casinos (NNJC)** Coalition is an alliance of business leaders and organizations, organized labor, government officials, and members of the general public who are opposed to the expansion of gaming outside of Atlantic City. The Coalition is committed to defeating the ballot question which would allow for up to two casinos to be built in Northern New Jersey.

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