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Vicki Clark, President
Cape May County Chamber of Commerce

Opposition to ACR1

Good morning and thank you for this opportunity to address this committee meeting on the expansion of casino gaming in New Jersey outside Atlantic City. The Cape May County Chamber of Commerce representing over 800 businesses, opposes this proposal and asks that this measure be vetoed in committee.

Allowing casino development in North Jersey will be detrimental to the economy of Southern New Jersey and in particular the greater Atlantic City region which includes Cape May County whose economies are dependent on the tourism industry. While casino expansion might be beneficial to Northern New Jersey, that benefit will be at the loss of jobs, tax revenues, and economic drivers in the Greater Atlantic City region. Cape May and Atlantic Counties do not have the diversified economy that the rest of our state enjoys. We depend on our tourism economy to provide jobs and generate revenues to sustain our communities, schools, charitable organizations, hospitals, and quality of life. If this expansion is allowed, it will be at the sacrifice of southern New Jersey.

With the growth of gaming in neighboring states and online portals, data indicates that while gaming venues have grown 38%, the number of gamers has remained the same. Increasing the number of gaming opportunities in New Jersey will not grow the marketplace; rather it will dilute it.

I respectfully ask that this committee consider the fragility of the southern New Jersey economy and veto this bill in committee today.