

October 29, 2015

To: Members of the South Jersey Legislative Delegation

From: Debra P. DiLorenzo, President & CEO, Chamber of Commerce Southern New Jersey

Date: October 29, 2015

I am writing to express the Chamber of Commerce Southern New Jersey's vociferous opposition to expanding gaming outside of Atlantic City, which we believe will have an immensely negative affect on Atlantic City, Atlantic County and the greater Southern New Jersey economy.

It is no secret that Atlantic City has experienced its share of challenges. However, 2015 has brought some positive news; all indications are that the remaining six operating casinos seem to be the "right" number for our State. According to the Division of Gaming Enforcement, total revenue increased 3.5% for the first half of 2015, including 4.1% growth in casino revenue from last year. Although moderate, this uptick is a clear and positive sign that Atlantic City can stabilize if given the opportunity to do so.

That said, the CCSNJ wholeheartedly believes that Atlantic City cannot thrive if New Jersey amends its constitution and allows gaming to be expanded to another or additional jurisdictions. Any further saturation of the gaming market, especially saturation that happens within our own State, will stifle any chance of a renaissance.

It is notable that New Jersey residents generally do not want to see gaming expanded to other areas of the State. A Fairleigh Dickinson University (FDU) Poll from June of this year noted that 56% of statewide respondents did not want gaming outside of Atlantic City. Additionally, a recent survey of CCSNJ members found that the vast majority were also opposed.

The CCSNJ understands that this important policy discussion will be taking place in the near future. We look forward to participating in further conversations on this matter as it is directly tied to the South Jersey region's long-term prosperity. We assert that gaming belongs exclusively in Atlantic City and will strongly oppose any measure to expand it to other areas of the State.

Thank you for your kind consideration of our position on this matter.

Sincerely,
