



# MEDIA ADVISORY

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## **Statement from the No North Jersey Casinos Coalition on Proposal to Allow Video Lottery Terminals at Meadowlands and Monmouth Racetracks**

**The following is a statement from Debra P. DiLorenzo, chairwoman, No North Jersey Casinos Coalition.**

*The No North Jersey Casinos Coalition opposes Assemblyman Caputo's latest effort to expand gaming to North Jersey—this time, without the need for voter approval. The Assemblyman recently announced his plan to seek legislative approval to establish video lottery terminals (VLTs) at the Meadowlands and Monmouth racetracks. VLTs are slot machines—plain and simple. Now that the ballot question to expand gaming to North Jersey appears doomed to failure, this latest attempt to locate VLTs at racetracks clearly ignores the will of the people and is instead a “work around” the voters of our state.*

*The Assemblyman's proposal is merely a rehashing of the same ill-fated plan proposed in 2003 when then Governor McGreevy formed the Governor's Commission on the Horse Racing Industry which studied allowing VLTs at racetracks. The plan never materialized because the Commission concluded that VLTs were a form of gambling, and therefore required voter approval of a Constitutional amendment to allow them in a location outside of Atlantic City.*

*The Commission's conclusion was supported by several legal opinions. One was written by prominent attorney, Herbert Stern, who, at that time, represented the Casino Association of New Jersey (“CANJ”). Another opinion written by former NJ Supreme Court Justice Robert Clifford on behalf of CANJ reached the same conclusion. And, in December 2002 then Legislative Counsel Albert Porroni also concluded that permitting VLTs at racetracks would require a voter approved amendment to the State Constitution.*

*Locating slot machines in two other areas of our state in direct competition with Atlantic City casinos and placing them in their largest marketplaces will be extremely harmful to this industry that has invested billions in private capital in our State, provides thousands of direct and indirect jobs, and has paid millions of dollars in taxes. The results of intra-state competition have been well documented in the economic impact study authored by Cory Morowitz and released earlier this year. As with Ballot Question #1, we maintain that Assemblyman Caputo's proposal will simply result in moving revenue that would be spent in Atlantic City to locations in Northern and Central New Jersey.*

*The casino industry in Atlantic City is fighting to remain strong and competitive. Investment in new facilities along with other non-gaming attractions are key to the continued growth of this industry in New Jersey. The VLT proposal will undermine the efforts to make Atlantic City a destination resort and will negatively impact the non-gaming development that the City has worked so hard—and successfully—to attract. The resurgence of shopping and restaurants is a direct result of state policy and we believe that effective state policy should **encourage** further investment of private capital in Atlantic City, and not discourage it, as this legislation would.*

*The Coalition will work vigorously to oppose Assemblyman Caputo's legislation.*