

December 27, 2016

The Honorable Stephen M. Sweeney
Kingsway Commons
935 Kings Highway, Suite 400
West Deptford, NJ 08086

Dear Senate President Sweeney:

This November, New Jersey voters overwhelmingly rejected a ballot measure that would have allowed two casinos to be built in northern New Jersey. The resounding defeat of this initiative was not just a result of South Jersey voters taking a stand against in-state casino development; instead, voting data showed that residents in every New Jersey county – including those in Central and Northern New Jersey – opposed gaming outside of Atlantic City and voted “no.”

That is why the CCSNJ was disappointed to see that Assemblyman Ralph Caputo (D28), a champion of the failed ballot measure, was successful in passing **A-4255 (Caputo)** out of the Assembly Tourism, Gaming and the Arts Committee on December 5, 2016 by a vote of 4-3.

On the surface, this bill seemed to be legislation that dealt primarily with internet gaming, which has been permitted in New Jersey since 2013. However, as currently written, this bill would permit Monmouth Park and the Meadowlands Racetrack to make racino-like environments by allowing internet gaming cafés within the racetracks. This would essentially create online gambling areas at the tracks that would mirror a casino’s designated gambling area and act as a workaround to expand gaming outside of Atlantic City.

As we have strongly and consistently argued, the CCSNJ believes that the Legislature’s focus should be on stabilizing Atlantic City and diversifying its market, not advancing counterproductive measures such as **A-4255 (Caputo)** that would entice gamblers away from Atlantic City. Not only would the shifting of gamblers out of Atlantic City negatively affect the City and the surrounding region, it also directly contradicts the clear message sent by New Jersey voters on November 8th who vociferously opposed, by a 3:1 margin, the expansion of in-state gaming.

The CCSNJ believes that **A-4255 (Caputo)** would simply act as a springboard to allow Video Lottery Terminals (VLTs) and other casino gaming options at racetracks. For these reasons, we respectfully urge the entire Legislature to oppose **A-4255 (Caputo)**.

Thank you for respecting the wishes of New Jersey’s electorate.

Sincerely,

