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COMMITTEES:

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REGULATION

DANIEL J. BURKE

STATE REPRESENTATIVE · 23RD DISTRICT

November 5, 2008

Illinois Gaming Board
160 N. LaSalle Street-3rd Floor
Chicago Illinois 60601

Dear Chairman:

I have recently met with Tim Carey to discuss Hawthorne's bid for Illinois 10th casino license, and based on these discussions and my review of the development plans, I strongly believe that this bid would most acutely meet the legislative intent of the license while providing the most income for our cash-strapped State budget.

Simply put, this bid:

- creates thousands of new jobs
- prevents the most gaming money from going out of state
- generates hundreds of millions of dollars in economic relief
- and most importantly can be utilized within six months

Across the nation, communities are hurting financially and all of us are looking for serious ways to rejuvenate our local economies. That Hawthorne could provide such relief so quickly is an opportunity that we cannot let pass by.

Additionally, their plans to redistribute 85% of the host tax to neighboring communities is a remarkable way to provide true economic stimulus to the extended region. Because of their proximity to downtown Chicago they can generate more money than other applicants and consequently can provide more benefit to more communities.

Finally, this casino development would provide much-needed relief to the horseracing industry which supports over 40,000 Illinois jobs. No other applicant for this license can have such a broad and vital impact.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Burke".

Daniel J. Burke
State Representative
Illinois, 23rd District