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TRANSPORTATION & MOTOR VEHICLES**ROBERT S. MOLARO**
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
21ST DISTRICT

November 5, 2008

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

Dear Chairman:

Of all the bids for Illinois' 10th casino license, Hawthorne Race Course would by far provide the biggest net gain to the State of Illinois.

Elgin's casino has current revenues of about \$400 million per year. A casino in Des Plaines or Rosemont would only cut into this revenue. There's no net gain to the State of Illinois.

Let's stop people who live in the south, southwest suburbs, the city of Chicago, as well as everybody who flies into Midway from spending all of their money in Indiana. Lost revenue to Indiana is \$720,000,000 per year. Casino developments in Calumet City, Country Club Hills or Harvey would not stop this loss as effectively as Hawthorne. With Illinois' smoking ban, gamblers from the downtown market, which accounts for the majority of this revenue, will still choose to play in Hammond, which is just as close as these other proposed sites. Only Hawthorne would truly keep players in Illinois.

Additionally, a casino development at Hawthorne would *save 40,000 jobs* in the horseracing industry. This is an unprecedented advantage to choosing this site, and should be a significant priority for the Gaming Board. The racing industry is in decline and as other states have continued to approve slots legislation, Illinois suffers. The proud history of Illinois racing is in serious jeopardy.

Hawthorne Race Course is just off the Stevenson expressway and the Eisenhower is less than 2 miles away. The El comes out from downtown and stops about a mile away and open air trolleys could easily bring groups of people from downtown. This would be an amazing, amazing thing.

I believe that a casino at Hawthorne could be the best license in the history of the world for 1200 positions. There's nothing better for state of Illinois, and what we're trying to do down in Springfield.

Sincerely,

Bob Molaro
State Representative
Illinois