

ILLINOIS STATE SENATE

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**Louis S. Viverito**  
State Senator • 11th District  
Assistant Majority Leader

□ Committees:  
Vice-Chairperson  
Financial Institutions  
Member  
Appropriations I  
Executive  
Rules  
□ Commissions:  
Illinois Council on Aging

November 6, 2008

Illinois Gaming Board  
160 N. LaSalle Street – 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Chicago, IL 60601

Dear Chairman:

In that the legislative intent of the 10<sup>th</sup> casino license is to benefit economically depressed communities as much as possible, I strongly urge you to select Hawthorne Race Course as the site for this facility. The Village of Stickney and the surrounding area are in great need of such economic impact.

Because the 10<sup>th</sup> license has been dormant for so long, I know that it is a priority of the Gaming Board to award this license by year's end so that economic relief can be immediate. However, Hawthorne is the only applicant that would be able to open in 2009 – a fact that further underscores the benefits of their proposal as meeting the needs of the State.

*Communities in this district need jobs now and this bid would create nearly 2,000 jobs in the next calendar year.*

Additionally, the long-term benefits are numerous. A gaming license at this location would generate more money for the state than any other proposed site or current casino. Hawthorne is uniquely situated within a high density market surrounded by major metropolitan expressways and is at the gateway to Midway Airport. An entertainment destination at this location would generate urban development all along Cicero Avenue.

Hawthorne Race Course and the Carey family have been valuable members of this district for 100 years and Champions Casino & Resort would be a tremendous benefit to the community for years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Louis S. Viverito".

Louis S. Viverito  
State Senator, 11<sup>th</sup> District

LSV/dmr