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House of Representatives

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Harrisburg

COMMITTEES

AGING AND OLDER ADULT SERVICES CONSUMER AFFAIRS GAMING OVERSIGHT JUDICIARY

E-mail: tstephen@pahousegop.com Web Site: RepToddStephens.com

TO:

All House Members

FROM:

Representative Todd Stephens

DATE:

April 25, 2012

RE:

Co-Sponsorship of Legislation: Montgomery County Property Tax Relief Fund

In the near future, I plan to introduce legislation to re-distribute local share assessment of slots revenue for Montgomery County.

With the recent opening of the Valley Forge Resort and Casino, Montgomery County has the opportunity to benefit from this new business, but as current law stipulates, the county's share of gambling proceeds go to the Commonwealth Financing Authority.

As a way of background, under the Gaming Act (Title 4), the local share assessment was created to assist host counties and municipalities with the costs of having a casino in their area. The Act states that 2% of gross terminal revenue (GTR) is distributed to the host county, and 2% GTR is distributed to the host municipality. Each host county and each municipality then have specific uses for the money as described in the Act.

Specifically, currently under the Gaming Act the Montgomery County local share is deposited into an account with the Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA). The CFA is to use the money exclusively for grants for projects in the county that qualify for the Business in Our Sites Program, the Tax Increment Financing Guarantee Program and the Water Supply and Waste Water Infrastructure Program.

My legislation proposes to create a new fund (the Montgomery County Property Tax Relief Fund) for this local slots revenue in Montgomery County and revenue will be distributed to Montgomery County residents in the same manner as the Property Tax Relief Funds revenues.

If you would like to co-sponsor this proposal, please contact Lindsey Freidly at (717) 260-6163 or via e-mail at <u>LFreidly@pahousegop.com</u>. Thank you.