

Remarks of Mr. Thomas Gilbert

House Bill 2082

Good morning Mr. Chairmen and members of the committee. My name is Thomas Gilbert and I reside in Gettysburg, Adams County where I am a small business owner. As a lifelong resident of Adams County and Gettysburg, I am appalled that a representative of Bucks County would try to deprive our area of desperately needed job creation and economic development.

I have been a resident of Gettysburg my entire life except for my service to my country and currently live next to the Battlefield. My property abuts the newly acquired land from the First Day's Battle, formerly the site of Gettysburg Country Club, which President Eisenhower had as his home golf course.

My heritage comes from my great-great grandfather who fought in the Battle of Gettysburg. He was the drummer boy of Adams County Co. K, the first Pa. Reserve Co.

Today, I am a business owner in Gettysburg and do pay taxes. This misguided bill should die with this committee. It is unconstitutional and an affront to our state laws to draw a line around our area to exclude a legal business.

If the sponsor of this legislation is so focused on my town where I pay taxes, I must ask several questions:

Why did the sponsor not make the same effort in his county, considering there is a casino in Bensalem?

Where was he when Valley Forge was awarded a casino license right next to one of the most historical areas in our nation?

Please put this unconstitutional bill to rest once and for all. Those of us who have relatives that fought in the Battle of Gettysburg and live here today certainly understand the importance of what happened in our hometown. But we also understand the need for job creation and economic development because our future is every bit as important as our past.

I want to thank the committee for the opportunity of addressing this body from the standpoint of a citizen of Adams County. Thank you.