



## Office of the Adams County Commissioners

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February 3, 2012

Jennifer L. Weeter, Executive Director  
PA House of Representatives  
Gaming Oversight Committee  
Room 236 ROB  
Harrisburg, PA

**RE: Perspective of Adams County Board of Commissioners concerning  
Gaming Buffers applicable to Adams County**

Dear Ms. Weeter:

The Adams County Board of Commissioners ("Board") has become aware that on February 8, 2012, the House Gaming Oversight Committee will hear testimony regarding the creation of a proposed ten (10) mile gaming buffer extending out from the boundaries of the Gettysburg National Military Park. It is the Board's understanding this potential legislation is part of House Bill 2082. The Board believes it is necessary to make known its concerns and position regarding this proposed legislation, and respectfully request that this letter be entered into any related committee records, and shared with all committee members.

This proposed legislation has a significant potential to adversely impact the Adams County economy. The Board believes the proposed ten (10) mile radius buffer is irrational, and not related to any discernable and defensible position concerning the protection of the Gettysburg National Military Park. The proposed buffer would stretch beyond the Mason-Dixon line to the south and well into Maryland, beyond New Oxford to the east, beyond Cashtown to the west, and beyond Bendersville to the north. In fact, this radius would encompass a majority of the geographic area of Adams County. Such an onerous exclusion would impact a number of areas having no direct economic linkage to the Gettysburg National Military Park.

The Board believes this proposed buffer suggests protections that are not needed. Several levels of gaming oversight are already in place. In addition to the existing legislation governing the issuance of licenses, there exists both a Legislative Oversight Committee, as well as the State Gaming Board. All applicants and proposed operations are reviewed by the State Gaming Board. Any buffer would ignore these regular undertakings and insights these two bodies provide concerning any potential application.


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Adams County is represented by a legislative delegation that is engaged on issues in our County, as well as by our Board of Commissioners that stridently undertake efforts to both develop economic opportunity, as well as to ensure the protection of our unique community fabric. It is bothersome that this proposal has been undertaken without engaging either the legislative delegation or the Board of Commissioners in evaluating the merits and impacts of this proposal. We believe such an oversight is unprofessional. To have a legislator from the Philadelphia area introduce legislation specifically affecting Adams County, without fair input or consultation from Adams County, is neither prudent or effectual. For any legislator or body to impose any regulations and limitations on the County of Adams, without the opportunity for the County of Adams to be part of that conversation, will result in strong protest from this Board of Commissioners.

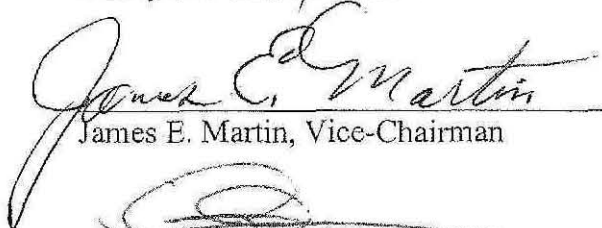
Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments. Please enter this letter into the record relative to the House Gaming Oversight Committee Hearing, on February 8, 2012, regarding the proposed ten (10) mile buffer surrounding the Gettysburg National Military Park. The Board of Commissioners of the County of Adams stands ready to engage in any meaningful discussion of this or any other proposal that may have a direct impact on the lives and well being of our County residents.

Sincerely yours,

**ADAMS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**



Randy L. Phiel, Chairman



James E. Martin, Vice-Chairman



Marty Karsteter Qually, Commissioner