



January 14, 2010

## Officials wrong to ignore casino recommendations

In one of the more outrageously transparent displays of sucking up to owners of the state's three racinos, five lawmakers this week said they don't want more casinos in Delaware because it could put one or more of the existing ones out of business.

They did not say that in those words, of course, but the head of Dover Downs, chief executive officer Ed Sutor, said before the vote by the Sports and Video Lottery Commission that voting to allow two more casinos "would definitely put one or two of us out of business."

Once again, officials of the state's monopolistic gambling venues are using scare tactics to lobby lawmakers against making them compete with one or two new venues, presumably in Wilmington and Sussex County.

An analysis by a New Orleans-based gambling consultant, TMG Consulting, does say that as competition from Maryland and Pennsylvania continues to grow and if Delaware added the two more recommended casinos, some jobs would be lost and the total amount of revenue taken in would decrease. But TMG said putting the two new venues in business would help soften the blow to the state's economy by offering new outlets, one in the beach area and the other in the state's largest city.

Republican Rep. Clifford "Biff" Lee, Republican Sen. Colin Bonini, Democrat Sens. Nancy Cook and Patricia Blevins, and Democrat Rep. Helene Keeley have ignored the recommendations of a trusted consulting firm. They should all be ashamed of themselves.

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