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To: Pa. House Judiciary Committee
Re: Public Hearing, Riverboat Gambling
Date: September 12, 1996

I appear here today as a citizen, parent and independent business person.

Before making specific comment on the issue of Government complicity in the action of gambling I would like to review the relationship between you and I. The foundational documents which define our relationship recognize certain principles. Among those is the recognition of man's inalienable right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, a right endowed to him by the higher authority of a Creator God. These same documents recognize that governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed. One of the issues that needs be resolved is whether the governed, through their consent, can abrogate their inalienable right. In fact, they cannot. Neither can the state abrogate these rights because the authority to do so rests with a higher power.

What then is the individual's and the state's responsibility towards these rights? Since the rights cannot be changed and are "what is" so to speak, for the sake of this discussion, we can consider this condition to be truth, immutable and unchanging and self-evident just as our forefathers considered it. Our responsibility then individually and corporately is to confirm to the law of right. The word for this is virtue. Likewise, we also have a responsibility to abstain from or deny those actions which degrade our rights or our pursuit of virtue. The word for these actions is vice.

Another principle historically recognized by western civilization and this government has been that virtue and vice are also truths, having been revealed to us by our creator so that we might have the wherewithall to exercise our rights. Just as we did not make ourselves, neither did we determine the conditions under which we would thrive. Though we may have been given dominion over all that we see, we have not been granted the authority or the power to change our natures on our own. Likewise, we have not been granted the authority or the power to change the immutable laws which govern those natures.

Government, receiving its just powers from the governed, has a limited sovereignty. Government also does not act on its own but rather is a reflection of the actions of many

individuals. If individuals acting as government assume to exceed the limits of their sovereignty they then breach their obedience to those sovereign above them. If they chose to violate the laws of those above them they are lawbreakers. If they war against the laws themselves then they commit treason.

If there is anything to be learned about sovereignty and rule of law in the 20th century it could be learned from the Nurenberg trials. It was there that individuals were held accountable for the actions of a faceless state. "I was only following orders" was no excuse and a foundation was laid to define a lawlessness on the part of sovereign states. It has been established that every individual, unless coerced, has a mandate to exercise virtue regardless of the requirements of a sovereign state. Murder is wrong. It is a violation of Creator given law. Individuals commit murder. There is no exercise of sovereignty on this earth that can absolve an individual of this act. Neither is there any exercise of sovereignty on this earth that can absolve an individual from a like-kind act defined by the same supreme sovereign in the same way.

As murder violates Creator given law and our constitutional right to life so too does covetousness violate Creator given law and our constitutional right to pursuit of happiness. Being one of the seven deadly sins, covetousness is destructive to the human condition and traditionally has been recognized as such. Gambling's foundation rests in covetousness.

Imagine if you would, a job where you repeat the same simple action with a long term guaranteed negative paycheck. Only the insane would pursue such a job. Yet, gamblers will stand for hours pulling a slot machine handle to the same result. Only covetousness can bring them to what would otherwise appear insanity. The expectation of gaining the property of other's for which they have not toiled keeps them going. The foundation of gambling is covetousness and for this reason we have always recognized it as a vice.

There is no disputing the purposes of the vice squad, to primarily restrict prostitution, drugs and gambling. It is also made clear that gambling is not a vice because it is illegal but rather because it violates a higher law. These things are common knowledge. If Constitutional government also recognizes my inalienable rights then it can do no other than encourage the conditions which encourage virtue and discourage vice.

The state is holding hearings to determine whether they will become a minority partner in private enterprise operated gambling. The state already promotes a totally state owned gambling operation. The state wants information about effects of the next level of activity. If the state

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(actually, a select number of individuals) should determine that the effects of the next level of activity would be beneficial, then we can assume that the next level will occur.

I do not testify here to the effects of the expansion of gambling. Neither do I grant the state the authority to determine what shall now be considered vice and virtue. If the state receives its just powers from the governed, I hereby place the state on notice that I have no authority to determine what shall be called virtue and what shall be called vice. Neither do I have the authority to pursue vice and call it virtue without making war against a sovereign Creator.

I also make known to the individuals who are participating on the part of government in the redefining of the purposes of government. Government does not define vice. It can only discern it by attention to a higher law. Likewise, those who would assume otherwise and who without coercion engage the state in an attempt to define virtue and vice to their own standards are guilty of treason. Barring divine intercession, the penalty for this treason is death. On a temporal level, continued pursuit of this assumed authority is also a crime against humanity. If virtue is continually redefined by the state, the only temporal penalty may be the pangs of your own conscience.

True morality is not, nor ever will be, driven by consensus. It is possible that this path of relative morality chosen by the state may be irreversible. If this is the case, I request that my name be placed upon the list of those who wish to testify when the state holds hearings on government partnerships in prostitution and debilitating drug promotion.