

June 13, 2007

Honorable Anna C. Verna, President
Philadelphia City Council
Room 405 City Hall
Philadelphia, PA 19107-3290

Re: City Council Bills 070456 and 070458

Dear President Verna and Members of the Rules Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce (GPCC) in support of the subject bills which would change the zoning along certain portions of the Delaware River, making certain designations relating to the Commercial Entertainment District.

As you know the GPCC testified before the Rules Committee on February 21, 2007 in favor of gaming on the waterfront and pledged our support to do all that we could to have developers address the potential for traffic congestion at these two locations. It is the position of the GPCC Board of Directors that to hamper this development would prove to be very detrimental to the City in the long run.

This is much more than a zoning issue. Directly connected to gaming in Philadelphia is wage tax reduction, property tax relief for senior citizens, Pennsylvania Convention Center expansion, and jobs, both permanent and for the building trades. To jeopardize these economic incentives would put Philadelphia at an economic disadvantage in the region.

Again I am asking for your support of Bills 070456 and 070458 and ask that you vote the bills out of Committee with a favorable recommendation. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Joseph W. Mahoney, Jr.
Executive Vice President