

# News from Assemblyman Greenwald



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## PRESS RELEASE

### **KEY SOUTH JERSEY LEGISLATORS JOIN CITIZEN RALLY OPPOSED TO GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED CASINO TAX**

(ATLANTIC CITY) – Assemblyman Louis Greenwald (D-Camden County), Chairman of the powerful Assembly Budget Committee declared he was opposed to a proposed casino tax increase at a rally here today attended by over 200 concerned citizens. .

“New Jersey has a horrific fiscal crisis and Governor McGreevey is making some of the most difficult and responsible budget choices ever to meet the state’s needs without crushing the taxpayer,” said Greenwald. “The Governor has been on target with his budget but nobody bats 100% and with the proposed casino tax he swung and missed. His suggested taxes on the casino industry won’t work. It will hurt working families and cripple the casino industry in its ability to create economic vitality not only in South Jersey but throughout the entire state.”

Greenwald was joined by Senator William Gormley (R-Atlantic County), Assemblyman Francis Blee (R-Atlantic County) and Assemblyman Jeff VanDrew (D- Atlantic County) in opposing the casino tax at a rally, sponsored by the Atlantic City Council of Black Ministers, this morning in Atlantic City. The audience of more than 200 consisted of citizens, trade unions, casino representatives, businesses and the clergy who oppose Governor McGreevey’s proposed tax on casinos and to allow video lottery terminals at New Jersey racetracks.

“In opposing the casino tax we owe it to our Governor and to the people of New Jersey to come up with either the additional revenues or budget cuts to balance the budget. The Governor made difficult but responsible choices and so must we,” Greenwald added.

Assemblyman Greenwald addressed the concerns of the crowd by assuring them that “we as

legislators have not lost faith in the casino industry... we need to protect and bolster it” he said. More than 45,000 people throughout our state are employed by the Atlantic City casinos. “These people are our neighbors and friends who are working hard to save for their children’s education and for their own retirement” Greenwald added. “By passing this tax on casino’s we would be putting many people out of work” Greenwald continued. More than just casino jobs would be affected by this proposed tax increase, businesses like builders who provide housing to the employees would suffer, as would all of the vendors who supply the casino industry and tourism. All of these industries provide jobs and revenue that helps to drive the economy. The effects are so far reaching, as evidenced by the New York Stock Market plunge the day the Governor announced his plan. “This is not just an Atlantic County or casino issue, it is a state-wide issue” Greenwald told the crowd.

As Chairman of the Assembly Budget Committee Greenwald said, “I recognize the Governor’s message of fiscal responsibility and by not imposing this tax on casinos we create a hole in the budget. We have to spend the next five months trying to find ways to make up the difference, but not on the backs of the hard working families of New Jersey.”