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## **Casino association statement on Governor's proposal to take control of licenses**

**Comments of Tom Swoik, Executive Director  
Illinois Casino Gaming Association  
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- The governor's announcement again demonstrates that Illinois is bent on scaring away business investment and threatening an already anemic business climate. The completely unpredictable environment being created sends a message to businesses everywhere that operating in Illinois is a risky proposition.
- When has government – especially a State government with a \$5 billion budget deficit -- ever surpassed private enterprise in business savvy and efficiency?
- For the past 12 years, Illinois casinos have invested billions of dollars into their businesses. Having the State literally confiscate these businesses and destroy this investment is preposterous.
- For the State to both run and regulate casinos creates an obvious conflict of interest.
- Not only do casinos sustain 66,000 Illinois jobs and create billions in economic activity and taxes, but they also invest in local communities and local charities. Will the state also take over those responsibilities?
- Since the state passed a 50-percent tax increase last year, Illinois casinos have lost marketshare and potential tax dollars to Missouri and Indiana. State ownership is the surefire way to ensure that Indiana and Missouri keep benefiting from Illinois' shortsighted fiscal policies.

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