

Contact: Laurent Pernot  
312-337-7400

**Endorsement of HB 143 by the Illinois Casino Gaming  
Association  
May 8, 2003**

- The Illinois Casino Gaming Association endorses House Bill 143 as approved today by the Illinois House Select Committee on Gaming.
- We believe the legislation as currently written not only will bring much-needed revenue to the State of Illinois, but will also stimulate investment by our industry in our properties and our people, creating new jobs and even more revenues for the state and for local communities.
- We commend Committee Chairman Lou Lang and his staff for their months of hard work, which has resulted in a comprehensive piece of legislation that balances a variety of interests. We are prepared to compete vigorously and grow our businesses under the terms of House Bill 143.
- In particular, the restructuring of tax rates along with additional positions will provide an incentive for us to invest in our facilities and help provide a level playing field in our competition with casinos in Northwest Indiana, Missouri and Iowa. This bill surely will keep gaming tax revenues from leaving Illinois.
- We are pleased that this measure recognizes the important role of the casino industry to our state's economy. The value of our industry to the state was demonstrated clearly by a University of Illinois study that we released jointly earlier this year with the Illinois State Chamber of Commerce. That study put the overall economic impact of casino spending, jobs and taxes at nearly \$5 billion a year.
- We encourage all members of the General Assembly to support House Bill 143 and hope that it will be promptly enacted and signed by the Governor.

\* \* \* \* \*