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Roll back state casino tax

February 23, 2003

As an Illinois business owner, I am directly feeling the negative effects of the state's increased tax rates on casinos. I support the casino industry's proposal, which would roll back the current, excessive tax rate and lift the limits on gaming positions.

The unheard of 50 percent gaming tax is not only hurting Illinois casinos; it is also affecting the bottom lines of thousands of Illinois companies who supply them with goods and services. In turn, our employees and our suppliers are put in jeopardy. Many of these vendors, like me, are small companies who depend on Illinois casinos for a large share of our business.

As a vendor, I find it difficult to watch as Illinois casinos continue to lose market share to other states month after month. This is valuable business that represents millions of dollars that should stay in Illinois.

I hope the Legislature - and this newspaper - will take this fact into consideration and throw their support behind this proposal.

Denny Murphy *Welch Systems Peoria*

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