

Public Comment to Horse Racing Commission 5.25.17

The State Legislature that created the Horse Racing Commission also created the 2nd Class Township Code. That code allows a Referendum on whether to ban proposed horse racetracks from the township.

The citizens of Freedom Township, Adams County, PA have met the criteria for the referendum provision in the Township Code. In this case, the first criteria were the signatures of 46.5 registered voters. Volunteers from Freedom Township went door to door over one weekend and collected the notarized signatures of 120 registered voters, which they presented to the Supervisors on May 10 along with 270 additional signatures. No Casino Gettysburg has also collected over 8,700 signatures online, 6,083 from PA.

An additional requirement was that the proposed racetrack be less than 50 air miles from the center of an existing licensed racetrack. An air mile is 6,076.11 ft., longer than a land mile. No Casino Gettysburg employed professional surveyors who determined that the proposed track is 49.5 Air Miles from Penn National Race Track in Grantville, PA. **The Code states that if these two criteria are met the referendum is mandatory.** The Freedom Township Board of Supervisors took the material under review and will announce their decision on June 14, 2017. We are confident about the legality of the request.

We suggest that The Horse Racing Commission not review the license application for Freedom Township until after the Nov 7 referendum vote. If the Referendum allows the racetrack the Commission could then review and rule on the application. If the referendum does not allow the racetrack the application fee could be returned to the applicant and no review would be needed. In either case, there is no need to spend time and treasure on this application until after the Nov. 7, 2017 referendum.

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