A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED
BY LEGISLATORS MARINELLI, McCRACKEN & DIXON

7'12 AM10:48

RE: Supporting Batavia Downs and Hamburg Casino Being Authorized by New York State for Full Casino Gaming

WHEREAS, in September 1973, 11 Western New York counties and two cities established the Western Regional Off-Track Betting Corporation (Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, the City of Buffalo, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, the City of Rochester, Niagara, Orleans, Seneca, Steuben, and Wayne), as enabled by state law; and

WHEREAS, these municipal "stockholders" chose to exercise that local option to form such a corporation that dictated local control by those municipalities over such gaming activities in their respective communities; and

WHEREAS, the start-up costs of this enterprise were funded solely by these initiating counties from their own treasuries of taxpayer money and represented no state money nor allowed for any state sharing of this purely local venture; and

WHEREAS, since those 11 counties voted to form Western Regional Off-Track Betting Corporation (WROTBC), an additional four Western New York counties have joined them in the local control of such gaming activities that has, since 1973, generated over $209 million in operating and surcharge revenues to the taxpayers of those participating municipalities; and

WHEREAS, WROTBC has returned $56 million to Erie County since its inception, including $700,000 returned to Erie County in 2011 and $168,198 in the first quarter of 2012; and

WHEREAS, the participating municipalities of WROTBC as its shareholders have a *pro-rata* financial interest in the $39 million of net equity reinvested in its 30-plus corporately-owned branch facilities, including the track and casino at Batavia Downs; and

WHEREAS, WROTBC projects increased revenue if authorized for full casino gaming at Batavia Downs by New York State, including over $86 million in capital construction spending, which will result in 552 direct construction jobs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature urges the Governor and members of the Western New York delegation of the New York State Legislature to support Batavia Downs Casino and Hamburg Casino, presently licensed for video gaming, to be authorized for full casino gaming by New York State; and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Western Regional Off-Track Betting Corporation, the Erie County Executive, members of the Western New York Delegation of the New York State Legislature and to all others deemed necessary and proper.

FISCAL IMPACT: None for resolution.