

FAX from John D. Wolf 219/465-3204 to Tom Grey 407/248-4806

TO: National Gambling Impact Study Commission, May 20-21, 1998  
James R. Thompson Center Auditorium, Chicago, Illinois

Legalized gambling came to Indiana under false pretenses with a referendum to change the Constitution to allow for a lottery. Casinos were not a part of the decision.

After intense lobbying and repeated turndowns, the State Legislature reluctantly passed the Riverboat Casino Law in an adjourned session called to pass the state budget only in July 1993. The tying together of budget and casinos in a single vote is contrary to state law and is now being challenged in the courts.

Instead of a statewide referendum, the Riverboat Law was rigged to deny the will of the people. All the people of Lake County, where four casinos are located, were not allowed to vote. Only the cities of Hammond, East Chicago, and Gary voted. Four counties said NO. The total vote, including municipalities, was 106,158 NOs and 105,294 YESs.

In this kind of contrived legislation where state is played against state, county against county, and community against community, a county such as Porter can vote overwhelmingly NO and have a casino next door where the vote was a slim majority.

The Coalition also seeks redress through the courts of violations of state regulations concerning environmental laws on the Ohio River. We seek a statewide referendum on casinos. We note the zeal for revenue that makes government officials overly enmeshed with the gambling industry. In every legitimate way we seek to get the State of Indiana out of the gambling business.

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