

**For Immediate Release**  
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**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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## **PETITION TO STOP GETTYSBURG CASINO PROPOSAL REACHES 7,500 SIGNATURES, GAINS SUPPORT FROM NATIONAL PRESERVATION GROUP, Freedom Voters go door to door.**

**(Gettysburg, Pa.) – An online petition** to prevent the development of a harness racetrack and casino less than three miles from Gettysburg National Military Park reached 7,700 supporters this week, including signatures from all 50 states and more than 5,100 from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. **A similar door to door petition** in Freedom Township is being conducted by Freedom Township resident members of No Casino Gettysburg.

Susan Paddock, co-Chair of No Casino Gettysburg, stated, “We don’t want America’s most beloved and historic small town to be known as a casino town, and neither do all the folks who signed this petition. Events here determined that the United States would be a Union free of slavery, and millions come here to learn about that. The Gettysburg Address is the most memorized speech in the world. We need to protect the identity of this sacred place.”

**National Parks Conservation Association**, a nonpartisan group dedicated to protecting the natural, historical and cultural heritage present in America’s national parks, recently joined with No Casino Gettysburg. NPCA, supported by its more than 1.2 million members, stands firmly against gaming development near the Gettysburg battlefield.

“The rural, historic landscape of Gettysburg and surrounding communities draws over 1 million national park visitors each year who travel from near and far to observe the solemn legacy of the Civil War’s bloodiest battle and remember the 51,000 soldiers who were killed, wounded or captured. This casino proposal threatens the family-friendly visitor experience and historic character of the battlefield’s southern gateway community.” said Amanda John, Pennsylvania and Delaware Program Manager for NPCA.

The online petition – addressed to the Freedom Township Board of Supervisors, the Pennsylvania State Horse Racing Commission, and the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board – reads, in part: “It is unlikely that the proposed harness racetrack and casino would be able to remain viable in the long term. What is certain, however, is that this proposal would destroy the historic identity and rural character of south central Adams County. Further, it would cannibalize existing restaurant, entertainment, and recreation

businesses in the Gettysburg community. In commercializing the southern gateway into Gettysburg, this development would have an adverse impact on the visitor experience to Gettysburg National Military Park, threatening the heritage tourism industry that is the economic lifeblood of Gettysburg.”

**Freedom Township residents** have been actively fighting the proposal with a door to door campaign and numerous No Casino Gettysburg signs dot the rural landscape. The “We Are Freedom” team of No Casino Gettysburg will be discussing their work during public comments at tonight’s Planning Commission meeting.

The proposed racino must receive approvals from several state and local entities: a rezoning by Freedom Township in Adams County, a harness racing license from the Pennsylvania Horse Racing Commission, and a casino license from the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board. **The Freedom Township Planning Commission, advisory to the Freedom Supervisors, will meet May 3 at 7PM at the Township Building, 2184 Pumping Station Rd, Fairfield, PA 17320, to consider plans for the proposed racetrack and casino. The Supervisors will meet May 10 at 8PM at the same place.**

This is the third proposal for such development in Gettysburg, following unsuccessful attempts in 2006 and 2011 by the same developer, David LeVan. The new plan would place a harness racing track and large casino at Route 15 and Emmitsburg Road, the first highway entrance to Pennsylvania and Gettysburg from the south. The road leads directly to the national park and through the site of Pickett’s Charge, the Confederate attack on the last day of the Battle of Gettysburg that resulted in massive casualties and ended Gen. Robert E. Lee’s advance into Pennsylvania.

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**No Casino Gettysburg** is an all-volunteer citizens’ advocacy group dedicated to saving historic Gettysburg, Pennsylvania and the surrounding area from becoming a casino town. Formed in 2005, the organization has defeated two major proposals, and is now fighting a third proposal – all from the same developer – near the hallowed ground of the Gettysburg National Military Park and the Eisenhower National Historic Site. Learn more at [NoCasinoGettysburg.org](http://NoCasinoGettysburg.org).

#### **About National Parks Conservation Association**

Since 1919, the nonpartisan National Parks Conservation Association has been the leading voice in safeguarding our national parks. NPCA and its more than 1.2 million members and supporters work together to protect and preserve our nation’s natural, historic, and cultural heritage for future generations. For more information, visit [www.npca.org](http://www.npca.org).