



Representative Mary Ann Shallcross Smith

District 46, Lincoln & Pawtucket

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Shallcross Smith, Petrarca urging override of casino veto

Lincoln, Rhode Island – July 21, 2010

STATE HOUSE – Rep. Mary Ann Shallcross Smith and Rep. Peter Petrarca recently met with House Speaker Gordon D. Fox to encourage an override vote on Gov. Donald L. Carcieri's veto of a referendum on allowing Twin River in Lincoln and Newport Grand to become full-fledged casinos

Representatives Shallcross Smith and Petrarca were joined by Lincoln Town Administrator Joseph Almond and Town Councilor John Flynn at the meeting Thursday to ask that legislative leaders call back legislators, who have recessed for the year, for a special session to override the veto. The leaders are still discussing that possibility.

"I feel strongly that the people of Lincoln and Rhode Island should have the opportunity to decide whether to have casinos here. Our state is already struggling with deficits, and if our neighbors in Massachusetts approve casinos as they are discussing, Rhode Island and the Town of Lincoln stand to lose a lot of money if our facilities can't compete. I'm very disappointed that the governor vetoed the people's opportunity to decide," said Representative Shallcross Smith, a Democrat who represents whose District 46 in Lincoln and Pawtucket includes Twin River. The Lincoln Town Council voted 5-0 in support of the ballot question.

The state gets 61 percent of revenue generated by gaming at its two slot parlors. A study commissioned by Twin River estimated that if Massachusetts allows casinos and Rhode Island does not, the state would lose \$97.1 million annually and Lincoln would lose \$2.3 million of the \$6 million it receives from Twin River each year.

Thanks to legislation sponsored by Representative Shallcross Smith and Sen. Daniel P. Connors (D-Dist. 19, Cumberland Lincoln) this year, Lincoln is continuing to receive a higher share than it used to get from the slots. Under that legislation (2010-H 8268, 2010-S 2987), which Representative Petrarca (D-Dist. 44, Lincoln, Johnston, Smithfield) cosponsored, the town was given a yearlong extension of the 1.45-percent rate it has been receiving on the Twin River machines since 2009. The rate was supposed to fall back to 1.26 percent this year, but the legislation kept it in place until June 30, 2011, protecting \$700,000 in revenue for the town.

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