



## News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

March 18, 2008

**Contact:**

Larry Carpman or Shelley Greenberg  
(617) 338-6601

[larry@carpmancommunications.com](mailto:larry@carpmancommunications.com)  
[shelley@carpmancommunications.com](mailto:shelley@carpmancommunications.com)

## **Massachusetts Coalition for Jobs and Growth Testifies at Beacon Hill Hearing on Resort-Style Casinos**

*Coalition Members Testify on Jobs, Revenue, Tourism Topics*

BOSTON (March 18, 2008)—Citing the need for increased jobs and added state revenues, several members of the Massachusetts Coalition for Jobs and Growth testified today in support of the Governor's proposal to develop three resort-style casinos.

Among those testifying were Paul Toner, Vice President of the Massachusetts Teachers Association; Robert Haynes President of the Massachusetts AFL-CIO; Salem Mayor Kimberley Driscoll; and City Manager Jay Ash of Chelsea.

"No matter what, we cannot forget that our schools and our public higher education system are trying to do too much with too little," Toner testified. "We owe all our students a chance to experience a great public education and to have access to high-quality, public higher education. This is vital for their personal success and for the future of our economy."

The new study from the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce estimated that the Governor's proposal will produce between \$490 and \$542 million in new net revenue for the state.

"I know there has been a lot of back and forth over the specific job and revenue projections, but what's important is this: If you're an unemployed worker one good job is enough for you and your family," said Haynes in his testimony today. "What is important is that if done right this legislation will undoubtedly create substantial amounts of family-sustaining jobs. How many paychecks will workers in this Commonwealth have to miss? How many creditors will have to come calling? How many foreclosures will working families have to endure before this legislature and this Governor finally work together to take pro-active steps to create the kinds of jobs we need? We are asking you to give us a chance and by shutting down this debate and icing this bill you are ignoring our calls for you to help us achieve the quality of life we deserve."

Mayor Thomas M. Menino of Boston said in his written testimony to the committee, "With the number of good, long-term jobs at stake and bringing in new revenue to the Commonwealth, we must explore the possibility of new municipal revenue sources as a result of expanded gaming in Massachusetts. I urge this committee to give House Bill 4307 a favorable report, and to work for its passage through the Legislature."

--more--

## Mass. Coalition for Jobs and Growth Testifies at Gaming Hearing

### Page 2

The hearing comes on the heels of recent announcements of new members to the Coalition for Jobs and Growth, including Mayor James Harrington of Brockton, Mayor Mark P. Hawke of Gardner, Mayor John F. Moak of Newburyport, Mayor Robert Dolan of Melrose, Mayor William Manzi of Methuen, Mayor Michael Bonfanti of Peabody, the United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1445, and the Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts, a union representing over 12,000 union fire fighters across the Commonwealth.

“Cities and towns across Massachusetts are walking a financial tightrope,” said City Manager Ash. “Municipal leaders are having to choose between public safety and education, between fixing roads and bridges and providing services to senior citizens. The resort-style casino proposal seems like the best, most viable option on the table right now to help cities and towns.”

Those testifying today cited the recently released study from the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce and other data that show the significant economic benefits of Governor Patrick’s proposal to build three resort-style casinos in Massachusetts. The Chamber study found that three resort-style casinos would generate over \$2 billion of economic activity throughout the Commonwealth, and will create approximately 20,000 permanent jobs with good wages and benefits, including health insurance. Combined with construction jobs, that will result in over 30,000 jobs that will stimulate the Massachusetts economy.

The coalition now includes the following individuals and representation from the following organizations:

<u>Elected Officials</u>	<u>Unions</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mayor Thatcher W. Kezer III (Amesbury)</li><li>• Mayor William Scanlon (Beverly)</li><li>• Mayor Thomas M. Menino (Boston)</li><li>• Mayor James Harrington (Brockton)</li><li>• City Manager Jay Ash (Chelsea)</li><li>• Mayor Michael Bissonnette (Chicopee)</li><li>• Mayor Mark P. Hawke (Gardner)</li><li>• Mayor Carolyn Kirk (Gloucester)</li><li>• Mayor Edward Caulfield (Lowell)</li><li>• Mayor Robert Dolan (Melrose)</li><li>• Mayor William Manzi (Methuen)</li><li>• Mayor John F. Moak (Newburyport)</li><li>• Mayor Michael Bonfanti (Peabody)</li><li>• Mayor Thomas Ambrosino (Revere)</li><li>• Mayor Kimberley Driscoll (Salem)</li><li>• Lowell City Council</li><li>• Salem School Committee Member Kevin R. Carr Jr.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Greater Boston Central Labor Council</li><li>• IBEW Local 103</li><li>• Massachusetts AFL-CIO</li><li>• Massachusetts Building Trades Council</li><li>• Massachusetts Laborers District Council</li><li>• Massachusetts Teachers Association</li><li>• Painters District Council #35</li><li>• Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts</li><li>• Springfield Police Patrolman’s Union</li><li>• United Auto Workers Region 9A</li><li>• United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1445</li></ul> <p><u>Business</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• John A. Penney Co. Inc.</li><li>• Logo Works</li><li>• Maestranzi Bros., Inc.</li><li>• Massachusetts Latino Chamber of Commerce</li><li>• M.P.R. Inc.</li><li>• Sterling Suffolk Racecourse</li></ul>

###

The Massachusetts Coalition for Jobs and Growth is a broad-based organization of business groups, mayors, and unions that supports the general principles of Governor Deval Patrick’s resort-style casino legislation. For more information, please visit our website: [www.masscoalitionforjobsandgrowth.com](http://www.masscoalitionforjobsandgrowth.com).