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Senate of Pennsylvania

October 30, 2009

The Honorable Edward G. Rendell
Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
225 Main Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Re: Table Games

Dear Governor Rendell:

I share your frustration at the lack of progress in finalizing the 2009-10 state budget. The continued delay is inexcusable and mystifying. However, I believe it is important to have some basic facts on the record.

Your office scheduled a meeting with legislative leaders to discuss table games earlier this week, on Tuesday, October 27. The meeting was to have taken place at 11:00 a.m., and I was in Harrisburg prepared to attend.

However, at 10:35 that morning, your legislative secretary sent an email indicating that she had "just received notification that last minute issues have made [some legislative leaders] unavailable, therefore we will have to cancel this meeting."

It is my understanding that House Democratic leaders pulled the plug on that meeting. I have not yet heard any explanation for their decision to do so. Unfortunately, that cancellation follows a similar incident the previous week, when a four-caucus staff meeting was scheduled but the House Democratic staff did not show.

I remain ready to meet with other legislative leaders, and you, face-to-face to resolve the remaining differences on table games.

Additionally, and as you are no doubt aware, all of the bills needed to complete the budget are currently being held by the House of Representatives -- including all of the non-preferred appropriation

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bills, such as those needed to provide state funding for the state-related universities: Temple, Pitt, Penn State, and Lincoln.

Regarding reforms to the Gaming Control Act and the authorization of table games, the Senate has passed three separate bills.

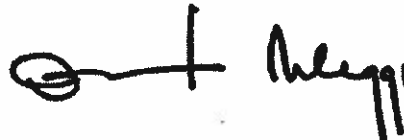
Senate Bill 711, which includes a comprehensive set of reforms, was approved by the Senate on July 7 -- nearly four months ago -- by a vote of 47-1. It is now in the House Appropriations Committee.

Senate Bill 1088, another bill which includes a comprehensive set of reforms to the Gaming Control Act, was approved by the Senate unanimously, 49-0, on October 9. Senate Bill 1033, which would authorize table games in Pennsylvania, also was approved by the Senate on October 9, with a bipartisan vote of 29-20. Both SB 1088 and SB 1033 are in the House Gaming Oversight Committee.

We have received no communication from House leaders regarding their plans for legislative activity during the House session scheduled for November 9 and 10. Given the complete lack of progress to date, and the fact that all bills needed to complete the budget are being held by the House, there is simply no reason to expect there would be budget-related work for the Senate until the following week, at the earliest.

Thank you for your continued efforts to complete work on the 2009-10 state budget. As soon as the House passes the remaining budget-related legislation so that the Senate can consider it, we will convene to do so. I will continue to do everything in my power to expedite this process. If there is anything specific that you believe the Senate can do to hasten this work, I welcome your input.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Pileggi". The signature is stylized with a large initial "D" and a long horizontal stroke.

Dominic Pileggi

cc: All Republican Senators
The Honorable Robert Mellow