

FINAL THOUGHTS

On Del Pointe

Gambling is not a good thing. Some people can handle it, but many people can't. And it disgusts me that our state relies so heavily on gambling proceeds to fund a government that is by all accounts out of control. So if you want to argue against gambling, you're going to find a welcome ally here. But if you're going to argue that gambling facilities in Kent & New Castle counties should be a cemented monopoly, and that Sussex County shouldn't share in the opportunities to draw people in and create jobs, then we will not agree.

Dover Downs is a publicly-traded company, one that, in its own words, is "always growing." Delaware Park is owned largely by out of state interests. Conveniently, Delaware Park's owners are vehemently opposed to gambling in Millsboro, but not to their own bid to have gambling at Ocean Downs, located less than 20 miles from Millsboro. Apparently, their outrage and fear stops at the state line, but not their rank hypocrisy. We are also led to believe that the creation of Del Pointe would be such a threat to the Harrington slots that it would destroy the Delaware State Fair, which, you should know, did just fine for decades before slots came along.

Del Pointe will be a first-class facility and will provide thousands of jobs for Sussex County and tens of millions in tax payments annually to the state of Delaware. It is being proposed, complete with "wow" amenities and good-paying jobs, by local people with deep roots in the area and a long business history right here.

The arguments being flung around by the existing monopoly racinos hold so little water that they barely justify repeating. But let's dissect the main point - that the creation of a new racino operation would cause job losses at the existing tracks.

Dover Downs has 789 full-time employees, according to SEC filings, and it made \$44,000,000 in pretax profit in 2007 - about \$55,000 per employee. Any job cuts by Dover Downs would be a management choice and not a financial necessity. It is shameful that they would hold their employees hostage in such a public manner, especially when they are "always growing" and have made nearly \$200 million pretax over the last five years.

This is a monopoly racket, and nothing more. The existing monopoly racinos are scared that Del Pointe would do what they do, only better. And they should be. But why are those three facilities entitled to their monopoly? Especially since we're the county that people actually *want* to come to? There are many people and groups in Delaware that need the protection that the racino monopoly has, and the millions that come with it. And none of them are multi-million dollar companies.

You want jobs for our area? Well, here they are. On the table. And the opportunity won't be here forever. Pay close attention to what your elected leaders do. 🗣️

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