

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Del Pointe legislation an issue of fairness

The recent interest and actions regarding the **Del Pointe** economic development project have prompted me to clarify my position on the issue.

While much of the debate over **Del Pointe** centers on the racino aspect of the proposal, the project will also include: a hotel and convention center, a family resort hotel, an indoor water park, an indoor sports complex, a movie theatre, five restaurants, 350,000 square feet of retail space and 50,000 square feet of office space — all of which will provide non-gaming jobs and revenue.

Del Pointe has already been approved to build and run a one-mile harness racing track and I do not see why they should be treated any differently than the state's three other horse racing facilities. To that end, I'm co-sponsoring House Bill 194, which would allow **Del Pointe** to operate slot machines. This is a fair approach that gives the Sussex County track the same authorization already extended to Harrington Raceway, Dover Downs, and Delaware Park.

For the last 15 years, all Delawareans have enjoyed the huge tax benefits associated with the state's three existing racinos. However, the residents of New Castle and Kent counties have received the lion's share of the jobs associated with these venues. I believe it's time Sussex Countians were treated equally and provided with the same employment opportunities as their fellow citizens.

Building **Del Pointe** will create 6,000 construction jobs. Two-thousand people will be employed in permanent jobs once the facility opens. Additionally, one study indicates another 2,000 jobs will be generated elsewhere in the county as a result of **Del Pointe**'s operations.

Additionally, aside from the money this project would pump into the state's coffers, it would generate an estimated \$900,000 for the Indian River School District and \$2 million for the town of Millsboro annually.

Opponents of this plan, some of whom I count among my friends, denounce the immorality of gambling. While I don't disagree with their views I would counter that I have an ethical obligation, especially in the current recession, to help facilitate the means by which many hard-working Sussex Countians could provide for their families.

I am not a proponent of gambling, but rather an advocate for the people of the 37th Representatives District. In these bad economic times, I will not turn a blind eye to a rational plan that could save many local families from a grim economic fate.

State Rep. Joseph Booth

37th District Georgetown

To respond to this letter, go to [www. newszap.com](http://www.newszap.com), go to "Del Pointe adds casino" in the Sussex County Public Forum.

Instead of raising taxes, state should cut spending

So now the Markell administration and General Assembly majority's latest and greatest idea is to raise income taxes to balance the state budget. Time is getting short since the new fiscal year starts in just a few days. What we are not hearing much about is cutting state spending. Instead, we hear what is nearly universally agreed is the worst of all ideas: Raising taxes in the middle of a serious recession at the same time when President Obama is trying to stimulate the economy.

One reason for the tax-hike proposal is that Gov. Jack Markell's original idea to balance the budget on the aching backs of state employees was dead on arrival in the Legislature. He proposed an 8 percent across-the-board salary reduction. The Joint Finance Committee finally bought 2.5 percent.

Further, he proposed hikes in various "sin" taxes, such as on liquor and cigarettes. This hasn't proved very popular either, at least not yet.

What you have not heard a peep about, however, is cutting down the size of state government. This despite the fact that Delaware has one of the highest per capita state spending rates in the country. We're something like first or second in that dubious category. State spending has risen 43 percent in the last eight years.

The fact remains that there are huge chunks of state government that could be eliminated without most Delawareans noticing. The difficulty with this is somebody notices. That "somebody" is the people receiving the benefits/checks, and their advocates, apologists and lobbyists. And then the "uproar" begins. This may only be a few hundred people on the Legislative Mall lawn, but it makes for good television.

Delaware needs more than a Sunset Committee. It needs a modern variant of that Truman-era idea: A Hoover Commission, to recommend closure of whole governmental activities.

Reid K. Beveridge

Broadkill Beach

To respond to this letter, go to [www. newszap.com](http://www.newszap.com), go to "Markell to unveil budget — Plan must address \$750M shortfall" in the State of Delaware Public Forum.

A bitter pill to swallow

The "Joe Sixpacks" of this country and those who live in the rural areas again have been forgotten and sold out by "Big Brother." A few years back a couple of prominent people were approached with a new

form of entertainment media and deals were made.

The people were introduced to the new media and the truth was suppressed. People were told the new medium would only require for the old TV units a converter box and they would see no change in their current situation or they could purchase a new TV and that was all it took. No one mentioned that only those who were within a marginal distance from the transmission station would get a reliable signal. The rest of those outside that margin can suck wind or encumber themselves to the monopoly that was created. Your choices are satellite services or cable and you are stuck with it, sounds like a monopoly to me.

The "Joe Sixpacks" better get off their rears and contact their congressmen and FCC and let their feeling be known. Your rights are being infringed upon and they will blank you out totally unless you let them know you will not sit still for it.

George Manser

Felton

To respond to this letter, go to [www. newszap.com](http://www.newszap.com), go to "Digital TV transition" in the State of Delaware Public Forum.

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