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Mason Dixon Casino Releases Economic Impact Report.

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Commissioned study predicts that Eisenhower Inn Casino will create 900 jobs; \$16 million in annual wages.

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With the state-mandated deadline for gaming applications looming, investors behind the proposed Mason Dixon Resort & Casino in Cumberland Township released an "economic impact" statement Wednesday, envisioning 900 new jobs, and \$16 million in annual wages.

The report was conducted by Philadelphia-based Econsult, claiming that Eisenhower Inn casino revenues are likely to generate \$3 million in taxes each year for Adams County, Cumberland Township and Gettysburg Area School District.

"Without question, this report shows that Mason-Dixon will be a true economic generator for Adams County, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania," said Gettysburg businessman and Mason-Dixon co-principal David LeVan.

"Our unique location avoids areas that are already saturated by gaming facilities," LeVan said in a statement. "This will allow us to create hundreds of jobs, more opportunities for Adams County businesses and generate substantial revenues for local and state governments."

The report shows that \$66 million would be invested into the county's economy on an annual basis, and the casino's proximity to the Maryland marketplace would generate about \$37 million in annual state tax revenues.

Six years after gaming was authorized by the Pennsylvania Legislature, the Baltimore-Washington metro area remains untapped by state casinos.

LeVan unsuccessfully sought a license in 2005-06, with his failed Crossroads Gaming Resort in Straban Township, east of Gettysburg along the Route 30 commercial district. That project was denied because of the "overwhelming" opposition that it generated, from its proximity to the 6,000 acre Gettysburg Battlefield. Revenue issues were also a concern listed by the state's Gaming Control Board.

According to the economic impact report, Mason Dixon is creating "375 full-time jobs" to the 100 jobs that are already in place at the Eisenhower Inn, located along Business 15 south of Gettysburg near Maryland.

Additionally, 550 "direct and indirect jobs" are likely to be generated during the construction phase, per Mason Dixon spokesman David La Torre.

The application deadline for the state's lone remaining "slots resort" license is April 7. LeVan and business partner Joseph Lashinger are looking to convert the Eisenhower Inn into an exclusive slots resort.

Read a complete report in Thursday's edition of the Gettysburg Times.

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