



## Gettysburg casino would create jobs, developer says; opponents disagree

By DONALD GILLILAND, The Patriot-News

April 03, 2010, 8:37PM

**A resort casino at the Eisenhower Hotel in Gettysburg** would create nearly 900 new jobs in Adams County with approximately \$16 million in annual wages, according to an economic impact study released last week by Mason Dixon Gaming, which proposes to build the casino.

Mason Dixon, led by Gettysburg native and former Conrail CEO David LeVan, is facing an April 7 deadline for filing its application with the Gaming Control Board for the sole remaining Category 3 casino license. Other applicants include Nemaocolin Woodlands Resort in Fayette County, Fernwood Hotel and Resort in Monroe County and the Crowne Plaza Reading in Berks County.

According to the study, the casino would generate more than \$1 million in annual tax revenue for both Adams County and Cumberland Township. It would generate an estimated \$37 million in taxes for the state.

Keith Miller, a Connecticut business analyst volunteering for the group No Casino Gettysburg, said the report's job creation claims were "without foundation." Noting that the report predicts more than half of casino visitors would come from within a 30-minute drive, Miller said, "The report proves the casino is a locals' casino ... and because it's a locals' casino, it would be drawing money from local businesses."

The study was conducted by Econsult, the Philadelphia firm that provided similar studies for the Valley Forge Convention Center, which was approved for a Category 3 license a year ago.

© 2010 PennLive.com. All rights reserved.