



Jim Justice
Governor of West Virginia

April 8, 2017

VIA HAND DELIVERY

The Honorable Mitch Carmichael
President, West Virginia Senate
Room 229M, Building 1
State Capitol
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

Re: Enrolled Senate Bill 437

Dear President Carmichael:

Pursuant to the provisions of section fourteen, article VII of the Constitution of West Virginia, I hereby disapprove and return Enrolled Committee Substitute to Senate Bill 437 because legal challenge to this legislation, would put the state's FY2018 budget in jeopardy, and for the substantial loss of employment to our citizens. My top priority is to create jobs, not lose them. Senate Bill 437 is job-killing legislation, and therefore I reject it.

The bill would decimate the greyhound racing industry, cost hardworking people their jobs and turn away tourists to our great state. Dog racing brought the casinos into existence; not the other way around. It is not right to go back on the promise that was made to the people of West Virginia and shut down the state's dog tracks.

Because voters in the affected counties authorized the passage of video lottery (slots) and table games through a local option election, citizens of those affected counties could challenge whether the Legislature can unilaterally and without local voter approval, authorize slots and gaming to continue at a free-standing casino with no licensed pari-mutuel racing. Further legal challenge, I believe will come from the casinos themselves, in the unconstitutional unequal treatment of casinos with no racing events from those that are required to hold racing events in order to have a license. These challenges would jeopardize the continuation of video lottery and pari-mutuel racing revenues in our state, which could impact the July 1, 2017 state budget.

I cannot support any legislation that would jeopardize the health of the state's casino industry, the state's FY2018 budget and the livelihood of so many of our citizens.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

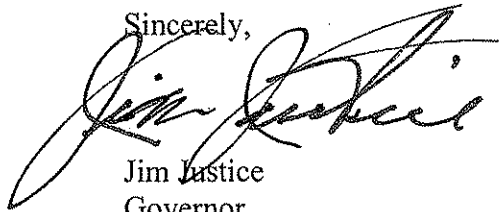
President Carmichael

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For the foregoing reasons, I disapprove and return the bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Justice". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J".

Jim Justice
Governor

cc: The Hon. Tim Armstead
Speaker of the House of Delegates

The Hon. Mac Warner
Secretary of State