



STATE SENATOR  
**ERIC H. KEARNEY**

9<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

\*\*\*PRESS RELEASE\*\*\*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Senator Kearney Repeats Call for Swift Action to Resolve Casino Tax Issue**

*Current situation could lead to lengthy lawsuits and fewer jobs in Cincinnati*

*Columbus* – State Senator Eric H. Kearney (D-Cincinnati) today repeated his call for a quick resolution to the ongoing dispute over the Commercial Activities Tax (CAT) and how it should apply to Ohio’s four new casinos. The issue has already delayed the opening of Cincinnati’s casino until 2013, and today the company building casinos in Columbus and Toledo warned it might be forced to reevaluate the scope of its planned investment.

“Jobs and economic development in Cincinnati and other parts of Ohio should not be held hostage while Governor Kasich and the casino companies fight over this issue,” said Senator Kearney. “We need to get this done so we can put people back to work.”

The casino operators insist they should be taxed on profits after winning bets are paid. However, a memo from the non-partisan Legislative Service Commission, requested by Senator Kearney, stated taxes (CAT) should be collected on all bets according to current law.

The Columbus Dispatch reported today that a Senior Vice President for Penn National Gaming said the company “may be left with no choice but to turn to the courts to resolve this matter.”

“I support getting the best deal for taxpayers, but every day that passes means fewer dollars flowing into our local economy,” said Senator Kearney. “Unfortunately, the Governor seems to be in no hurry to reach an agreement that both sides find acceptable.”

Senator Eric H. Kearney represents parts of Cincinnati, St. Bernard, Elmwood Place, Cleves, Cheviot, Norwood, Golf Manor, Columbia Township, Deer Park, Silverton, Springfield Township, North Bend and Addyston.

