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THEY'RE BAAAAAAACK!

Casino Interests preparing to roll the dice on 2014 ballot

(Tallahassee) – After a crushing defeat during the 2012 legislative session, casino interests have formed a political action committee to sponsor a proposed constitutional amendment to legalize high-stakes casino gambling on the 2014 ballot.

“It seems that after spending a half of billion dollars on real estate to build the world’s largest casino in Florida, gambling promoters can’t just report to their bosses in Malaysia and Las Vegas that Florida Legislators said ‘no’ – so now they will try their luck with Florida voters,” said No Casinos President John Sowinski. “Expect them to run a campaign of pure fiction – making big claims about jobs and tax revenues – but Florida voters have heard these arguments before and rejected them, because of the crime, social costs and business destruction that are the inevitable side effect of high-stakes casino gambling.”

Casino gambling has previously been on the ballot in Florida three times. It failed in 1978 (Yes – 28.6%/No – 71.4%); again in 1986 (Yes - 31.7%/No - 68.3%); and in 1994 (Yes - 38.7%/No - 61.2%). All of these results are a far cry from the 60% majority currently needed to pass an amendment to the Florida Constitution.

No Casinos also predicted that gambling interests supporting the new euphemistically-named committee “New Jobs and Revenues for Florida” (click here to see committee’s filing statement and officers: <http://nocasinos.org/press-releases/theyre-back/>) may sponsor two separate proposed constitutional amendments – one that will use candy-coated language to try to get voters to approve their mega-casinos, and a companion amendment that would lower the margin of passage required for a Constitutional Amendment in Florida from the current 60% back down to a 50% plus one.

“There’s big money at stake here – not just for the casino bosses, but for those who can lead them to believe that they stand even a remote chance of getting voters to approve what legislators would not,” said Sowinski. “Florida voters have a much better track record than the politicians when it comes to sending gambling interests packing.”

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