



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **No Casinos Back to the Airwaves**

*Group reminding the public that casinos  
cause crime, addiction and other social costs*

*Miami, FL*– NoCasinos.org, a group opposed to the expansion of gambling in Florida, has taken to the airwaves once again with an ad in the Miami media market called “Leave it in Vegas.” The ad, which is running in both Spanish and English, highlights Nevada’s record of leading the nation in unemployment, divorce, foreclosures, personal bankruptcy, violent crime and auto theft.

“Unfortunately, a foreign casino conglomerate and Las Vegas interests aim to plunder our state,” said No Casinos President, John Sowinski. “Genting and big Vegas operators would profit at Florida’s great expense, and leave in their wake the familiar gambling side effects of addiction, economic calamity, and increased crime.”

The No Casinos ad takes to the airwaves at a time when gambling interests – intent on increasing their influence in Tallahassee – are stepping up their involvement in helping to fund and provide political support in key legislative races. One of Genting’s major political assets is their well-connected lobbyist – former Congressman Lincoln Diaz-Balart. According to state lobbying records, a Genting-affiliated company called “Bayfront 2011 Development, LLC” paid Diaz-Balart \$25,000 per month during the recent legislative session. That’s when the Legislature shot down Genting’s plan to build the biggest casino in the world in Miami. Diaz-Balart’s only lobbying client during the 2012 legislative session was Genting’s Bayfront.

The former Congressman's relationship with the Malaysian casino conglomerate may explain why he has taken an active interest in supporting legislative candidates thought to be pro-gambling. For example, he has endorsed and personally provided financial support to Ana Rivas Logan and Renier Diaz de la Portilla. Further, his lobbying firm, Western Hemisphere Strategies, LLC, whose only Florida lobbying client is Genting, has made its only political contributions this cycle to Ana Rivas Logan and Renier Diaz de la Portilla.

"Voters should recognize that Genting and their agents are trying to do what gambling interests usually attempt – influence the outcome of elections in order to profit at our state's expense", said, Sowinski.

"We will continue to remind voters the real motives behind the political activities of gambling interests."

To view the English language ad click [here](#). For the Spanish language ad click [here](#).

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