



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
HARRISBURG

July 3, 2007

The Honorable Jane Earl
Room 177 Main Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17102

Dear Senator Earl:

I have been asked to respond to your invitation to testify on behalf of the Administration. We appreciate your concern for the effect of a government shutdown on gaming facilities but we also believe this hearing to be ill-timed.

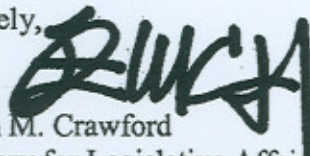
This morning, 25,000 Commonwealth employees received a furlough notice, effective 12:01 a.m. on Monday July 9, 2007. That number includes those tasked with the monitoring, regulation and enforcement of gaming pursuant to Act 71. This scenario, as unthinkable as it was at the time, was laid out in my letter to the legislative leaders on May 22, 2007.

We believe that the appropriate time for a hearing on this matter would have been during the months or weeks leading up to this point.

Therefore, we are about the business of running a government in the midst of a shutdown, reducing it to its very core function of ensuring the health, safety and welfare of our citizens, and trying to negotiate a budget package that will benefit all the citizens of the Commonwealth.

Thank you for understanding why we will not be present.

Sincerely,


Steven M. Crawford
Secretary for Legislative Affairs

cc: Greg Fajt, Chief of Staff
Joseph Martz, Secretary of Administration
Thomas Wolff, Secretary of Revenue
Tad Decker, Chairman, Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board