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Media Release

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Statement from MGC Executive Director Gene McNary on Attorney General's Letter to Governor Blunt

Jefferson City, Wednesday, November 8, 2006 - Missouri Gaming Commission Executive Director Gene McNary takes exception to Attorney General Jay Nixon's letter to Governor Blunt. The correspondence criticizes the appointment of an MGC Supervisor to oversee operations at Casino Aztar.

Executive Director McNary says "the move continues employment of nearly 300 workers and 6 million dollars in fees and taxes to Caruthersville, and surrounding Pemiscot County."

McNary adds "Nixon's release is a blatant political statement. This from the state's lawyer is unprofessional."

McNary says "the Attorney General's office was in on discussions from the beginning authorizing a supervisorship in the public interest for specifically this purpose. A new buyer will take over soon and an extreme hardship to the community will be avoided. Apparently, Mr. Nixon has no regard for the people whose jobs are at stake in southeast Missouri."

McNary adds, "while not saying it in his political statement, Nixon implied there is a conflict. This is not the case. The Missouri Gaming Commission will continue to enforce regulations, as will the

Gaming Division of the Missouri State Highway Patrol. MSHP Captain Lester Elder directs the Gaming Division and reports to Colonel James Keathley, the Superintendent of the Missouri State Highway Patrol. Apparently the Attorney General has overlooked the structure of our enforcement, which removes any cloud of conflict.

In addition, Mr. Nixon has ignored the fact the Missouri Gaming Commission has always held the dual role of enforcement and community impact."

McNary says "Mr. Nixon's allegations the MGC appointed supervisor will be working to take money from Missouri customers to send to an 'out of state boss' is misguided. A substantial number of the patrons at Caruthersville are from Tennessee and Arkansas. The 'out of state boss' is a major corporation with diverse stockholders, from many states including Missouri.

Finally, the MGC worked with the Attorney General's office from the outset concerning Casino Aztar and the lack of a licensed owner. The Attorney General's assistants were prepared to obtain a temporary restraining order to prevent the closing of the casino. It wasn't until a consent agreement was reached with the riverboat, that the Attorney General reversed course and criticized his client. The Attorney General's office never offered any options or alternatives during the process. Subsequently, instead of a letter to the MGC, an independent agency, the Attorney General sent his criticism to Governor Blunt. This form of political shenanigan has no place in state government and is beneath the dignity of the Attorney General's office. It's reprehensible when taken in the context of the many families being put out of work, and the extreme hardship to the community of Caruthersville.

The Attorney General owes an apology to the people of southeast Missouri."