



OPINION

Atlantic City: Give horse racing a chance

While I've been a big fan of the actions taken by Governor Christie, I believe his decision to "save" Atlantic City at the expense of the horse racing industry was wrong (and hopefully won't be the final decision).

For starters, Atlantic City is never going to be a resort town. Despite years of promises and an untold amount of money, Atlantic City remains a place where most visitors stay mostly indoors or venture just from casino to casino. To suggest it can become anything close to Las Vegas is just plain foolish. I know this, most people who still go there know this, and if you remove the

politically correct umbrella, the politicians know this. Barring a "Moses-like" parting of the town that leads to some oasis on its own, it's truly just a mirage to anyone who tries to argue it can become the Vegas of the east.

If this was about just keeping some racetrack open (and note: I've owned horses and still visit the track on occasion), I would understand

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how some people would feel it best to leave the industry to either sink or swim. But, this is about more than just keeping a racetrack open. The real, untold story is of the countless people and businesses who work in and around the industry who will die economically, and the open space the industry currently controls that will likely disappear into more homes, more schools,

more taxes, etc.

Atlantic City gambled and lost. Several casinos have gone bankrupt and many have become little more than large-scale betting rooms of which competition from outside state lines has already killed the goose that used to lay the golden egg. It's time to allow the racing industry to survive and the jobs, businesses and open space that comes with it.

Peter Grandich publishes The Grandich Letter blog at www.Grandich.com.