



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
COUNTY OF FAIRFAX
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
FAIRFAX, VA

McLean Governmental Center
1437 Balls Hill Road
McLean, VA 22101

TEL: 703-356-0551
FAX: 703-821-4275

dranesville@fairfaxcounty.gov
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dranesville

James N. Bierman, Jr.
DRANESVILLE DISTRICT SUPERVISOR

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GOVERNOR SPANBERGER VETOES THE CASINO BILL

I strongly applaud Governor Spanberger for standing with the people of Fairfax County and vetoing the wrong-headed, ill-conceived, unwanted, and corrupt casino bill. Thank you, Governor! I'm so glad that Governor Spanberger has ended this distraction and that we can get back to real issues facing Virginians and the people of Fairfax County: lowering costs, expanding opportunity, tackling housing affordability, improving education, and promoting public safety. This plan to enrich casino developers has absolutely nothing to do with any of that, as Governor Spanberger knows, and today is a good day for the hardworking families of Fairfax County.

Since my first week in office, I have joined with my constituents and railed against this awful bill. Casino proponents have consistently promised the moon, but their arguments have always fallen apart faster than a house of cards in a light wind. They've bluffed as if they're holding Pocket Aces, but we all know they've been sitting on 7-2 offsuit, the flop's been a flop, and the turn and the river left them out of outs. They went all-in and they went bust. Great news for Fairfax County!

I also want to thank my constituents for your tireless advocacy – opposition to this bill has come from every corner of the Dranesville District, every demographic, and every political persuasion. We did this together, and I am proud and thankful to represent you! And I want to thank the many members of the Fairfax County General Assembly delegation who fought this bill and voted against it, especially those who overlap with my district – my Senator Jennifer Boysko, Senator Saddam Salim who represents Tysons, my Delegate Rip Sullivan, and Delegates Irene Shin, Karen Keys-Gamarra, and Marcus Simon. I also want to thank Delegate Holly Seibold who also represents Tysons, and Delegates Paul Krizek, Kathy Tran, Charniele Herring, Vivian Watts, Gretchen Bulova, Karrie Delaney, and Dan Helmer, Senator Elizabeth Bennett-Parker, former Senator Adam Ebbin, Secretary of Finance and former Delegate Mark Sickles, and Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources and former Delegate David Bulova. You all stood strong against an effort to sell out our County – well done!

The Board of Supervisors was clear that we never asked for and did not want this bill. Governor Spanberger listened, she did the right thing, and today is a good day!