

Casinos know they have higher hand

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With the public's attention diverted by Mississippi government's financial woes, one piece of legislation that signifies a significant change in attitude toward the gaming industry.

When Mississippi opened its borders to the casinos in the early 1990s, it basically said, "Y'all come, but don't c

The casinos were happy to accept the offer. They built not only casinos but, as required by state regulators, o convention facilities -- all on their own nickel.

Now, with gaming revenues taking a pounding from the recession and with the unspoken threat that the casin has caved. It has begun to treat the casinos like any other industry -- meaning, that they are expected to hold incentives, just like automakers or other big employers.

Under the new law, casinos are eligible for the same 30 percent sales tax rebate as non-gaming companies for entertainment complexes, museums, golf courses, pro sports facilities or other similar attractions.

This is the second crack in the dam. The first came after Hurricane Katrina, when the casinos on the Coast wo

Watch and see what the casinos ask for next. They know, when push comes to shove, the state is so scared o thousands of jobs the industry has created, it will back down.

Casinos understand about holding the higher hand. They now have it, and they will always be able to call the :