

## **Odds are against putting casinos near coastline**

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Re "It's a free state in some ways, not in many" (Editorial, Aug. 26):

The Cato Institute reports the 2016 "Freedom in the 50 States index" ranks California as one of the worst. The cause being that business owners currently lack the private freedom to gain the greatest benefit as land owners.

The authors set forth their recommendations to improve California's sorry state by:

- Eliminating the Coastal Commission authority to regulate private land use.
- Easing restrictions on business.
- Relaxing gambling restrictions.
- Renewing eminent domain laws by adding teeth where none exist.

For over a decade now, state legislators have worked to reform California's local eminent domain laws while keeping in mind their sworn promise and duty to protect and preserve the constitutional rights of victims and/or potential victims faced with eminent domain takings and/or regulatory takings.

I doubt there will be much honest support to allow gambling casinos near highly valued coastline destinations. More likely we might expect a re-birth of the Save Our Coastline grassroots movement motivated to relocate such economic engines away from the coast and onto nearby and more conveniently located business-friendly areas where properties are ripe for taking.