Gov. Christie: We Cannot Have The Full Faith And Credit Of Municipalities Put At Risk By Politics

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Transcript:
Governor Christie: I do not understand why the Speaker continues to mischaracterize it. Except to say this, that what he is doing is placing the full faith and credit of, not just Atlantic City, but a number of other municipalities in this state at risk. Newark, Union City, Paterson, Trenton, Camden, will all be at risk for significant downgrade if this situation is allowed to continue going forward. Another thing that confuses me is this: the Speaker says he is an advocate for North Jersey gaming as I have been. This situation is ensuring that North Jersey gaming referendum will be defeated this fall. There is no way the people of this state will approve an expansion of gaming when the city government in the only city where gaming is allowed is ready to go down the toilet. And so, for all these legislators in the northern part of the state who have been on my back for six and a half years to approve North Jersey gaming- they should stop talking to me and go down the hall and talk to the Speaker and tell him to stop setting up a situation where this referendum has no chance of winning. And I will tell you this- if the Atlantic City takeover bill and the PILOT bill are not passed and sent to my desk in their current form, I will oppose North Jersey gaming. And I will use every bit of influence I have to make sure that the referendum is defeated. Because I cannot have the full faith and credit of municipalities in this state put at risk by a political power play by the Speaker.

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