Stakes high for an urban casino

Written by Administrator Wednesday, 10 April 2013 06:04 -

Get ready for an urban casino because the rural option looks like a nonstarter.

Foxwoods has hit the same wall of community resistance in Milford that derailed Steve Wynn and New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft in Foxboro, so it's going to come down to Everett vs. Suffolk Downs for the grand prize: the Greater Boston resort casino license.

That's sweet redemption for Wynn, who now has a second chance in Everett, where residents love his plan.

Maybe Foxwoods doesn't care. Some say Foxwoods' \$400,000 up-front fee bought the Mashantucket Pequots a chance to sue the eventual Wynn-Suffolk victor and hold up the process long enough to keep the slot machines going in Connecticut. Hopefully, it won't go that way.

While Wynn and Suffolk both seem to have strong backing, their battle royale could come down to community support in the end, too.

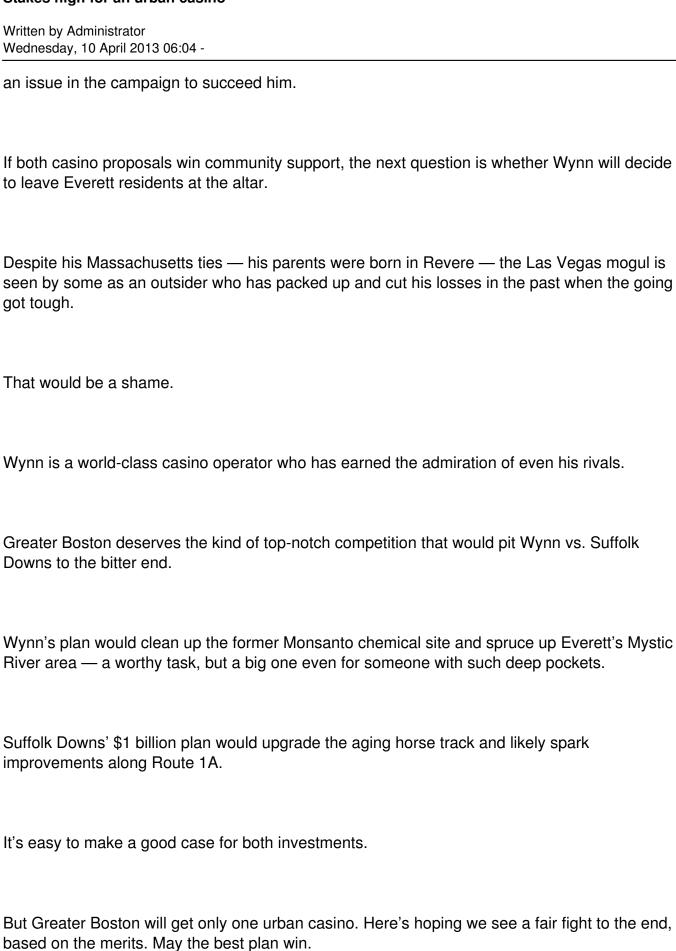
Wynn's \$1.3 billion proposal has won over the hearts and minds of Everett residents, but Suffolk Downs must still contend with a small but vocal group of casino opponents. To make matters even more challenging, Suffolk Downs and its partner Caesars Entertainment must win votes in both Revere and East Boston.

That puts the Wynn Everett casino plan in the driver's seat.

For Boston residents, only a Suffolk Downs win would give the Hub a piece of the tax-revenue action. A Wynn victory means a huge boost for Everett.

With Mayor Thomas M. Menino retiring, it will be interesting to see whether the casinos become

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