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United Food & Commercial Workers International Union Local 27



Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia

In SUPPORT of
HB 435

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

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February 20, 2020
House Ways & Means
Committee

Chair Kaiser, Vice Chair Washington and Members of the Committee, on behalf of the 23,000 working men and women represented by United Food & Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW) Local 27, I am submitting testimony in support of HB435.

The UFCW Local 27 is proud to represent the hard-working men and women at Rocky Gap Resort and Casino. From gaming to house cleaning to the spa almost all of the workers at the resort are members of Local 27.

These are good-paying, union jobs in an area that has a higher unemployment rate than the state average. This legislation would make permanent the current tax rate on the Video Lottery Terminal operations at Rocky Gap and make a slight shift in distributions to the county and the purse dedication account.

While we do typically not support different treatment for some employers, Rocky Gap is a unique case. It is the smallest of the State's six casino's and faces more out of state competition than other casinos.

The opening of the casino at Rocky Gap led to improvements and expansion to the property, increased employment and additional tax revenue at a facility that had previously been a drain of State resources.

Extending the current tax rate would help allow Rocky Gap to continue to provide good quality jobs in Allegheny County, generate tax revenue and remain competitive with out-of-state casinos.

I urge the Committee to SUPPORT HB 435.