



February 6, 2025

Delegate Vanessa E. Atterbeary, Chairperson  
Ways and Means Committee  
Room 131  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, Md. 21401

Reference HB 17-Internet Gaming

Dear Chairperson Atterbeary:

It has come to my attention that the Senate and Budget Taxation Committee will hear public comments on HB 17-Internet Gaming, and its features to expand Maryland's gaming to include i-Gaming. Please understand that it is my distinct pleasure to provide testimony representing the members and E-subscribers of Maryland Washington Minority Companies Association (MWMCA), located in Baltimore City, Maryland. Since 2002 MWMCA has operated as a trade, design, and material commodity trade association for hundreds of its members and thousands of its virtual E-subscribers.

Now comes our "Free State's" unfortunate attempt to expand its entrance into i-Gaming at a time when it's less needed. With all the years it took to achieve casino style gaming in Maryland, along with the billions of dollars of investments in land purchase, permits, architectural and engineering design, purchase of expensive power and AC equipment, construct world class facilities, and train basic neophytes in gaming to serve this industry. Plus, vendors sought state licensing and casinos' increased expense for security of the facilities and its patrons, not to mention the state of Maryland building new roads to access these casinos; i-Gaming would add a major burden to crush this new industry.

Why, when there is so much downside for making it easier to allow folks to gamble. With this new legislation one would be able to place wagers while in the restroom relieving themselves or at work on their state job. At MWMCA, we believe that the risk is not worth affecting the entire flourishing industry. With revenues at their all-time high and the state enjoying its increased tax revenues; our residents working within the industry in the thousands and retail sales tax contributing to the overall revenue of the state of Maryland, why risk it. Furthermore, the physical location of the casinos creates the actual employment of thousands of workers earning great compensation and benefits to support their families. The casino's spends millions on procuring food, beverages and other commodities that create a welcoming atmosphere, and all of this is part of the state's GDP. The new i-Gaming industry will be pale compared to overall spending and tax revenue the

state enjoys now. Finally whatever small gains the state will earn in new tax revenue, it will reduce what it is earning now, with less people employed. Therefore, on behalf of MWMCA, I respectfully request no vote because we believe this ill-timed recommended legislation would destroy the thriving casino gaming industry as we know it now.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wayne R. Frazier, Sr.', written over a horizontal line.

Wayne R. Frazier, Sr  
President