

W.M. RICKMAN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, LLC

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301-840-2011

February 6, 2025

Honorable Vanessa Atterbeary

Chair

Ways & Means Committee

130 Taylor House Office Building

Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Opposition to HB 17, Internet Gaming

Dear Vanessa,

As the former owner of two casinos, I am writing today in opposition to HB 17.

Maryland's brick-and-mortar casinos are a cornerstone of the State's economy, driving substantial revenues to Maryland and its local communities. I know firsthand, that the casinos spent over \$3 billion in initial construction and an additional \$1 billion since opening. In addition, Maryland's in person casino gaming supports over 15,000 jobs.

I am very concerned that the introduction of iGaming would cannibalize our brick-and-mortar casinos which would adversely impact the casinos and the casino employees. I am also concerned that iGaming legalization would fuel gambling addictions, since everyone would be able to gamble at any time, day or night, on their smart phones or at home on their computers.

I hope that you and your committee members will give HB 17 an unfavorable report.

Sincerely,



William M. Rickman