



October 10, 2023

The Honorable Wes Moore  
Governor of Maryland  
State House  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Governor Moore,

Unite Here Locals 7 and 25, representing 6,000 workers who live in Maryland, and 2,400 employees who work at the MGM, Ocean Downs and Horseshoe Baltimore casinos, have significant concerns about Maryland moving forward with iGaming during the upcoming legislative session. As the largest gaming workers Union in the country, we are well aware of the dangers presented by iGaming.

In particular, we are concerned about the loss of Maryland jobs at the brick-and-mortar casinos. Maryland's six casinos have provided nearly a \$1B in state gaming revenue to the state and over \$3B in economic impact, including over \$700M in annual wages for nearly 16,000 Maryland jobs. Based on a Pennsylvania Gaming Control Report, PA casinos saw an approximately 10% reduction in jobs after the launch of iGaming – equating to about a 2,000-employee job loss. We believe iGaming will not only inhibit future Maryland casino job growth, but will also lead to a loss of jobs, Union jobs.

In addition, we believe that iGaming will exponentially increase problem gaming to epidemic levels in Maryland if enacted. The National Problem Gaming Council's 2021 Survey on Gambling Attributes found that online gamblers were as much as 8x more likely to report compulsive gambling problems and addictive behavior. More than 36% of iGaming players in PA experiences problem gambling according to a 2022 report conducted for the PA Department of Drug & Alcohol Programs. The national director of Stop Predatory Gambling & Campaign for Gambling-Free Kids recently stated that:

“Online gambling is like gambling fentanyl, it's like the most extreme form of all. It's opening a casino right in your bedroom so you can sit there in your pajamas and lose everything.”

Finally, we all need to be concerned that iGaming will lead to less real estate tax revenue, less personal property tax revenue, less income tax revenue, less alcohol tax revenue, and less sales tax revenue than are currently being realized with the brick-and-mortar casinos. Why would a casino

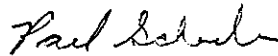
invest additional capital to improve or expand its casino/entertainment/hotel footprint if it can make money with much less investment in iGaming? It's clear that iGaming may mean more net gambling revenue, but at what cost and what loss of other state revenue streams – and jobs! When gaming was legalized in Maryland, many voters and organizations supported legalization because of the job creation it would bring to our state. iGaming takes us in the opposite direction.

There is a reason why over 40 states, including Nevada, have not enacted iGaming – and why 6 states have recently rejected iGaming legislation. It is clear that iGaming is a job killer, problem gambling powder keg, and overall revenue loser. Well before you receive The Innovation Group's pro-iGaming report from the Lottery Commission, we urge you to reject iGaming for Maryland.

Sincerely,



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Cc: William Furgeson, President, Maryland State Senate  
Adriene Jones, Speaker, Maryland House of Delegates  
Eric Luedtke, Chief Legislative Officer for Governor Moore