



March 25, 2024

Senator Guy Guzzone, Chairman
Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West Miller Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Ref. House Bill 1319

Dear Chairman Guzzone,

It has come to my attention that the Senate Budget & Tax committee will hear public comments on House Bill 1319 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 Md. Washington Minority Companies Association (MWMCA), located in Baltimore City Maryland. Since 2002, MWMCA operated as a trade, design, and material commodity trade association with hundreds of members and thousands of virtual E- subscribers. Our weekly E- newsletter to small, minority and women owned businesses, is their guiding light and voice to that community. Our industry renowned website www.mwmca.org is most sought after by major corporations and small businesses alike looking to connect with one another for mutual benefits. In essence we support and endorse total economic engineering inclusion and we believe Maryland is ready from more.

Now comes our "Free State's" unfortunate attempt to expand its entrance into i-Gaming at a time when perhaps it's needed less. With all the years it took to achieve casino style gaming in Maryland, along with the billions of dollars it took to purchase land, seek permits, architectural and engineering design, purchase expensive power and AC equipment, construct world class facilities, train basic neophytes in gaming to serve in this industry, vendors seeking state licensing, expanded expense for security of the facilities and its patrons, and the state of Maryland building new roads to access the casinos; we are now looking to add a major burden to crush the relatively new industry.

Why, when there is so much downside for perhaps making it easier to allow folks to gamble. Literally with this new legislation, one would be able to place bets while they're in the restroom relieving themselves. We believe at MWMCA that the risk is not worth affecting the entire flourishing industry. With revenues at their all-time high and the state enjoying it and our residents are working along with gaming and retail sales tax are contributing to the overall revenue of the state of Maryland. Why attempt to change that now. Therefore, we respectfully request a no vote on this ill timely recommended legislation that will destroy the thriving casino gaming industry as we know it now.

Sincerely,

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

Wayne R. Frazier, Sr.
President