

**Testimony Against  
HB 1319—Internet Gaming – Authorization and Implementation**

Before the Maryland House of Delegates Ways and Means Committee

Monday, February 26, 2024

Presented by

Tracy Lingo, President of UNITE HERE Local 7

Good morning, Chairwoman Atterbeary, Vice Chair Watkins and members of the House Ways and Means Committee.

My name is Tracy Lingo, I am the president of UNITE HERE Local 7. UNITE HERE is the largest Union of Casino workers in the United States. Our Union also represents hotel, food service, stadium and airport hospitality workers nationally and in Maryland.

I appreciate the opportunity to come before you today. The Gaming industry has expanded significantly over the last few decades. This expansion in States like Maryland, when done right, can fund important State and local initiatives, spur economic development beyond the Casinos and provide family sustaining jobs which further advances our economy.

iGaming is being touted as a quick fix to Maryland's budget. On behalf of thousands of Maryland's Casino workers and their local communities I ask that you look beyond this simplistic promise. iGaming if legalized in Maryland would in fact completely undermine the great progress that has and is being made in the areas of local development and job creation. It would also accelerate the most negative aspect of legalized gambling, which is problem gambling addiction.

Today you are going to hear stories from workers that will make you as state legislators feel good. Stories about how your work to develop Casino Gaming in our state has resulted in people getting jobs and thriving.

All of us want Maryland to be a great place to live and work—a state with a strong economy that allows workers to stand on their own feet and to support themselves and their families.

iGaming will hurt, not help us in reaching this goal.

UNITE HERE and other casino workers unions in Maryland are in opposition to all legislation that would lead to the legalization of iGaming in Maryland. I have included in my written testimony, petitions signed by union and non-union Maryland Casino workers who ask that you please halt all consideration of legalizing iGaming in Maryland.

First and foremost, the impact on the brick-and-mortar Casinos will be dramatic. The Innovation Report that was commissioned by the Maryland Gaming and Lottery Control Agency states clearly that we can expect a 10.2% loss of brick-and-mortar gaming revenue.

Maryland's six brick-and-mortar casinos directly employ 6,678 people as of January. According to the American Gaming Association, Maryland's gaming industry creates \$5.78 billion in economic impact and supports 27,380 jobs. The Sage Policy Group projected that legalizing iGaming could eliminate 685 direct jobs with \$33.6 million in lost annual income and a total loss of approximately 1,215 jobs with over \$65 million in lost annual income through direct and secondary effects. iGaming will not only inhibit future Maryland casino job growth, but will also lead to a loss of jobs, Union jobs.

Maryland's brick-and-mortar casino have fostered economic development connected to or adjacent to the Casinos. Ocean Downs Casino has plans on hold to construct a hotel by its casino. The Warner Street corridor next to the Horseshoe Baltimore Casino has begun developing an entertainment district which includes plans to build a hotel. The MGM Casino is a major engine for the development taking place at National Harbor in Prince George's County. iGaming will reduce the foot traffic in the Casinos and have a negative impact on all of these development plans. 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?

**Problem Gaming.** All indicators point to an exponential increase in problem gaming if Maryland enacts iGaming. 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 experience 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 have a negative impact on local jurisdictions. This includes not only a reduction of sales tax and alcohol tax but also less local impact money to the local jurisdictions. This local impact money which is generated from the Casinos is controlled by the local jurisdictions. It is used for a variety of projects including paying for residents’ community college tuition, paying for public employees’ pensions, and funding environmental sustainability, infrastructure, head start, summer youth and job training programs.

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 and an accelerant to problem gambling that will suppress local development and rob community programs of funds that they currently receive from the local impact money.

Please put Maryland’s working families and communities first. Reject all legislation that could advance iGaming in our state.

We ask for an unfavorable reading on HB 1319.

# Petition

December 2023

To: The Honorable Wes Moore, Governor of Maryland  
The Honorable Bill Ferguson, President of the Maryland Senate  
The Honorable Adrienne Jones, Speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates

We, the undersigned employees of Maryland Casinos are opposed to the legalization of iGaming, including live online poker, in our State.

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2. iGaming increases problem gaming due to the isolation of patrons gambling at home.
3. Reduced traffic in the Casinos would lead to decreases in overall tax revenues including those from Alcohol and Sales Tax and discourage economic development connected to the casinos.

Maryland legalized Video Lottery Terminals (VLTs) and then table games to a large degree because of job growth and economic development. iGaming is a serious threat to both.

**Please do not approve any measures that would advance iGaming in our state.**

Print Name	Signature	Job at a Md Casino
Chad Peer	Chad Peer	EVs
Thasancee Vasko	Thasancee Vasko	Slot Attendant
SHAYNE MINNICH	Shayne Minnich	TABLES
Keun Dewy	Keun Dewy	TABLES
DAVID MINTZ	David Mintz	Tables
Johnny T Liberto	Johnny T Liberto	Tables
Christine Maulk	Christine Maulk	Table Games
KIRK VAN NOSTRAND	Kirk Van Nostrand	TABLES
David Lecatrear	David Lecatrear	Table Games
Charlode Eke	Charlode Eke	Table Games
Randolph Preston	Randolph Preston	Table Games

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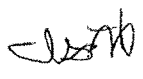


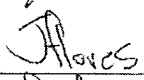
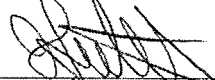

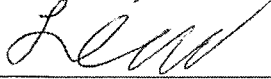
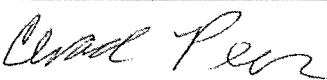


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Print Name	Signature	Job at a Md Casino
Ivan Soto		Dealer
Kody Sineo		Dealer / Table Games
DAMIAN Klein		Dealer
Johnny Flores-Gonzalez		Dealer
Jeremy Sestile		Dealer
Silliana Trigo		Dealer
Zoe Trigo		Dealer
Chad Pez		BVS
Haley Dopus		dealer
ROBERT WIENAND		TABLE GAMES

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Print Name	Signature	Job at a Md Casino
Alyssa Boyce		Table Games - Deal/Deal
Rebecca Laranko	R. Laranko 620710	Table games dealer
KAREN BULLOCK <sup>3125</sup>		EVS
Dave Curtis		Security
George Long		Security
Charles Carl		Security
Tom Morbin		Security
Sou Solomon		EVS.
Valerie Cannito		Salt Court
Mary Sawant		Security

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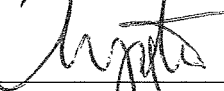


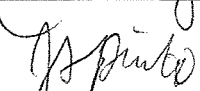

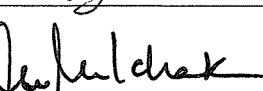
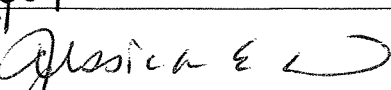

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Print Name	Signature	Job at a Md Casino
Randall McGowan		Barker
Ken Paulsen		Main Banker
Carri Baxtrom		Main Banker
Austin Bishop		Cage Supervisor
Cierra Jess		Cage cashier
Josh Spirito		Slot Attendant
Skyler Hadel		Slot Attendant
Gina Milcchak		Bartender
Jessica Williams		Cocktail server
Shakur Nock		SEC

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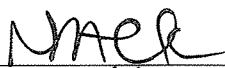


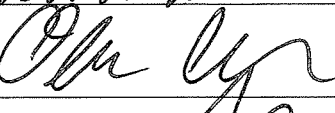




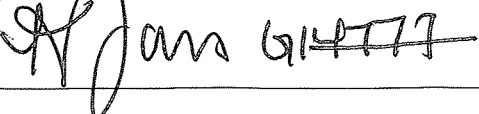
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Print Name	Signature	Job at a Md Casino
KEN TRIGO		DEALER
Nancy Shreck		Dealer
STEVE WALCARE		DEALER
WANDA WEBB		slot attendant
Olivia Garth		Dealer
Wayne Redpath		cashier
Cody McLaughlin		Slot Attendant
DEBRA PROUSE		MAIN BANK CASHIER
Ladine Proctor		Slot Supervisor
Kasey Jones		Slot Attender



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Print Name	Signature	Job at a Md Casino
Kathlene Farro	K Farro	Dealer
Ciara McAlister	CMcAlister	Food & Beverage
Bryan Davila	Bryan Davila	Cage Cashier
MARIE HOROWITZ	Marie Horowitz	SLOT ATTENDANT
BARB HASRELL	Barb Hasrell	CAGE
Elizabeth Schultz	Elizabeth Schultz	EVS
Chad Peer	Chad Peer	EVS
Kimyata Tolbert	Kimyata Tolbert	EVS
Jessica Young	Jessica Young	Cage
Lori Catalin	Lori Catalin	Cash Room

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Bryan Hoffman	Bryan Hoffman	SLOT Attendant
Dylan Tubbs	Dylan Tubbs	EVS
John A. Liberto	John A. Liberto	CAGE CASHIER
Shannon Fudge	Shannon Fudge	Table Games
Patrick Lieb	Patrick Lieb	Slot Attendant
Sherril Perzinski	Sherril Perzinski	TABLE GAMES
Cody Phillips	Cody Phillips	Bar/Server
Katie Sullivan	Katie Sullivan	Table Games
Richard Hays	Richard Hays	TG
Kathleen Cessna	Kathleen Cessna	Table Games

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Chantel Kimbre	CK 023209	Cashier
KIM MILES	KM 015403	SLOT ATTENDANT
Debra Teague	Debra Teague	Table Game Dealer
Melissa Colbert	Wanker	Beverage Server
Chadner Paris	Chadner	Beverage <del>Server</del>
Emani Lee	Emani Lee	Beverage supervisor
Olga Petrikova	Olga	beverage server
Tara Boyce	Tara Boyce	table games
Loren Simpson	Loren Simpson	Sportsbook
Eva Poliszczak	Eva Poliszczak	Bar tender
George Haddaway	George Haddaway	barman

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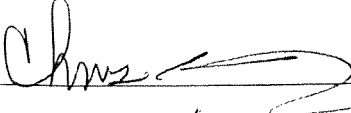
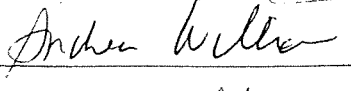
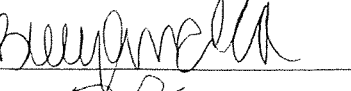
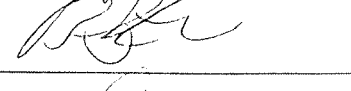
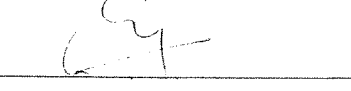
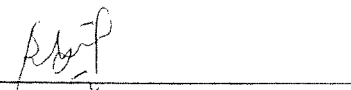
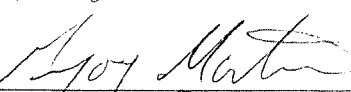
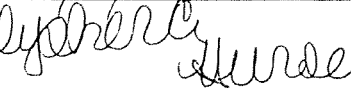

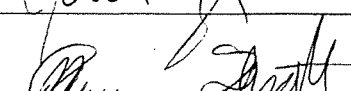
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Chris Lighty		SLOTS
Andrew Williams		Cook EDR
Breyana Scott		steward
Brian Downum		EDR
Chiranjibi Swas		Table Games.
Pabitra Sharma		Table games
Gregory Martin		Steward
Tyghera Hursey		EDR Attendant
Jason Taylor		Cook EDR
James Thwait		Table Games

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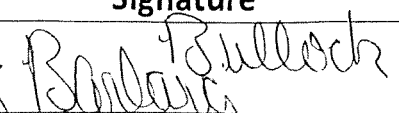
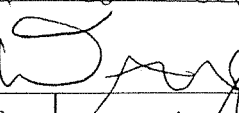
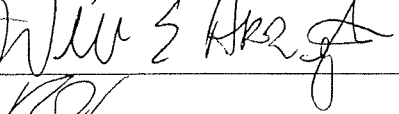
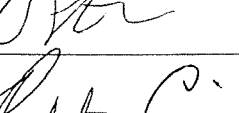
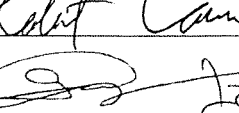
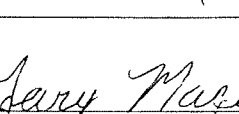

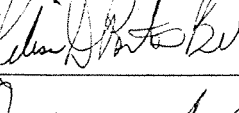
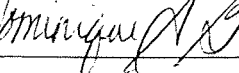

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Barbara Bullock		
Dezillia Castor		Horseshoe Dealer Table Game
MARIE AUSTIN		HORSESHOE FACILITIES
BRANPOW STEWART		
Robert Caine		Barback
GAUTAM BK		TABLE GAMES DEALER
Gary Mackey		EVS-HD
Denay Cant		Table games
MELISSA PORTER-BELCH		Table Games
Dominique Brown		Slot Attendant



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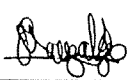


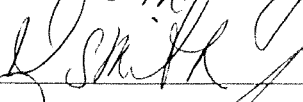
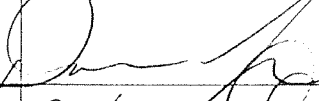
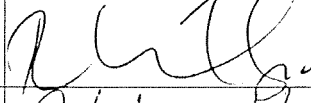

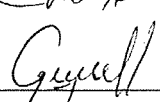
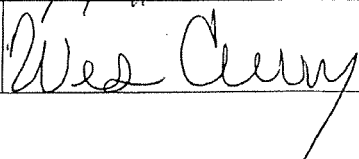
To: The Honorable Wes Moore, Governor of Maryland  
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 The Honorable Adrienne Jones, Speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates

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Print Name	Signature	Job at a Md Casino
Gloria E Shell	Gloria E Shell	<del>Horse shoe</del> Horse shoe
EISA Gonzalez		Horse shoe
JAKOB, CALLAHAN		Horseshoe <del>Mansion</del>
MICHAEL MATTHEW		HORSESHOES
Dizhen Smith		Horse shoe
Paonna Tucker		Horseshoe
Russell Wilson		Horseshoe
Chelsea Harvin		Horse shoe
Germaine Bahinbeal <sup>with</sup>		HORSE SHOE
Wes Curry		H.S.C.

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December 2023

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Print Name	Signature	Job at a Md Casino
Selina Franklin	Selina Franklin	
Jerry Wheeler	Jerry Wheeler	Table Games Dealer
Seralthe Woods	Seralthe Woods	Security
Timy Ward	Timy Ward	Table game dealer
Edward Brown	Edward Brown	EVS
Khond Hunter	Khond Hunter	Steward
Anglica Burton	Anglica Burton	Table Games Dealer
D'Andre Cooper	D'Andre Cooper	TG Dealer
WAYNE SMITH	Wayne Smith	TG Dealer
Lakayla Muse	Lakayla Muse	TG Deal-Rate



# Petition

December 2023

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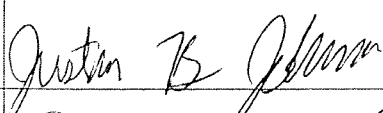
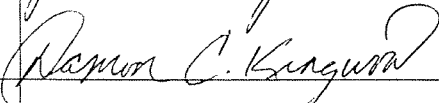
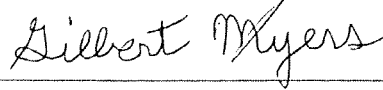
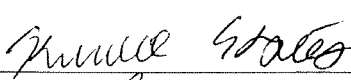


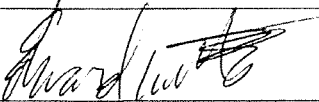
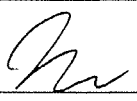
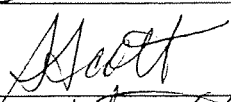
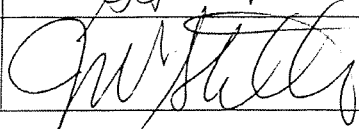
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Print Name	Signature	Job at a Md Casino
Justin B Johnson		Horseshoe Casino
Ramon C. Kingward		Horseshoe
Gilbert Myers		HORSE SHOE
Kenneth Kater		EDR
Wayne Smith		Horseshoe
Abigail Klos		Horseshoe
Edward Wital		horseshoe
Joshua Cook		TG Horseshoe
SABINA SCOTT		EUS Horseshoe Casino
JASON STILES		COUNT RM

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December 2023

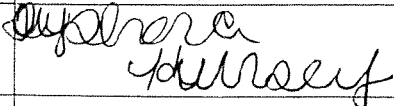
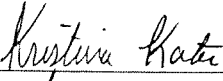
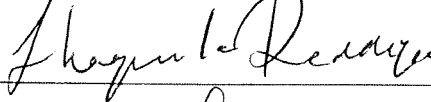
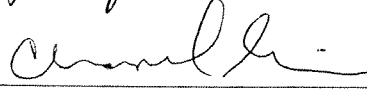

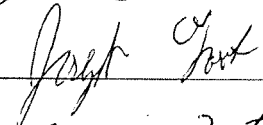
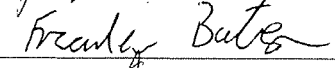

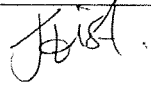
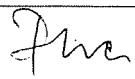
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Print Name	Signature	Job at a Md Casino
Tyghera HURSEY		EDR <del>at Horseshoe</del>
Kristina Kates		LEAD STEWARD Horseshoe CASINO
shaquilla Reddick		EVS Horseshoe Casino
Chanel Ervin		EVS Horseshoe casino
Zach Roselle		Horseshoe Table Games Dealer
Joseph Foste		Horseshoe Table Games Dealer
Frankie Bates		EVS horse shoe
KESHAV MADAI		TABLE GAMES.
JITENDRA BISIA		TABLE GAMES.
PRARASHY Joshi		TABLE GAMES

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December 2023

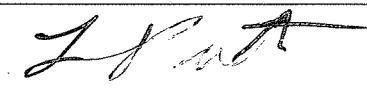


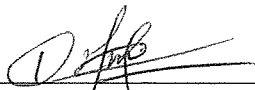
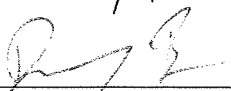


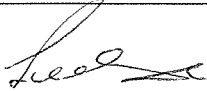
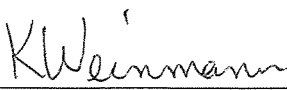
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Print Name	Signature	Job at a Md Casino
Lisa Putnam		Count team
Annie Riggin		EVS
Taylor Hayes		Count Clerk
Linda Vilma Altemae		Cook
Dana Banks		Cashier
Cynthia Carmichael		Dealer
Raul Rodriguez		Supervisor TG
Louise Dorcine		EVS
Karen M. Weinmann		Slots

# Petition

December 2023





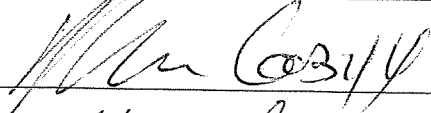


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Patty Strouth		security
Jean Nussle		Security
Shelly Celia		Audit
Devon Peck		Count
DESPINA FENDLAI		CAGE
Jess DeBreaux		Security
Colin Zimmerman		subst attendant
Lailah Sudler	Lailah Sudler	F & B

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December 2023

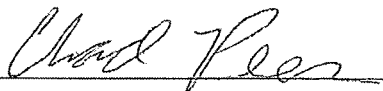

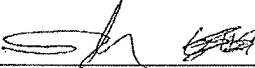
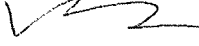
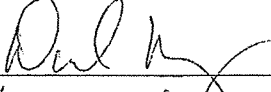

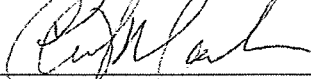
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Print Name	Signature	Job at a Md Casino
Chad Pees		EVIS
Thasanece Vaslo		Slot Attendant
SHAYNE MINNICH		TABLES
Keon Dewy		TABLES
DAVID MINTZ		TABLES
Johnny T Liberto		TABLES
Christine Mark		Table Games

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Jean Nussle	Jean Nussle	Security
Shelly Celia	Shelly Celia	Audit
Devon Peck	Devon Peck	Count
DISPOINA FENDLAI	DISPOINA FENDLAI	CAGE
Jess DeBreaux	Jess DeBreaux	Security
Kathy Brillan	Kathy Brillan	F+B
Emily Griley	Emily Griley	F+B
John Wilkins	John Wilkins	Security
Ronald Bauman	Ronald Bauman	Security

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Alyssa Boyce		Table Games - Real Pok
Rebecca Laramko	R. Laramko 620770	Table games dealer
KATELYN BUTLER <sup>3615</sup>		EVS
Doree Cortis		Security
George Long		Security
Charles Carl		Security
Tom Moran		Security
Sou Solomon		EVS.
Valerie Cannata		Soft Court
Mary Sewant		Security

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December 2023

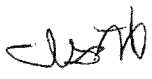
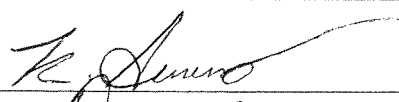
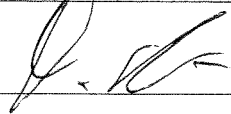
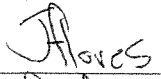
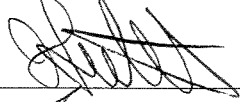

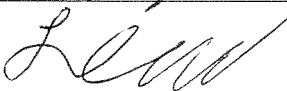
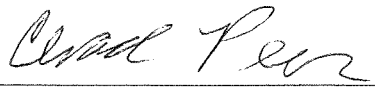
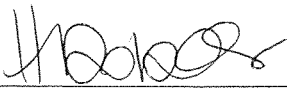

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Ivan Soto		Dealer
Kody Sinino		Dealer / Table Games
DAMIAN Klein		Dealer
Johnny Flores-Gonzalez		Dealer
Jeremy Sestile		Dealer
Billion Trago		Dealer
zoe trago		Dealer
Chad Per		EVs
Haley Dopus		dealer
ROBERT WIENAND		TABLE GAMES



