



The Honorable Guy Guzzone
Maryland State Senate
Seante Budget and Taxation Committee
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD

ATTN: Testimony for SB982: Sports Wagering – Wagers on Historical Horse Races – Authorization

Dear Chairman Guzzone & Members of the Budget and Tax Committee,

I'm writing to you in my capacity as the President and CEO of the Frederick County Chamber of Commerce to enthusiastically offer our strong support for the subject bill. Our Chamber, with over 950 companies and organizational members, representing over 42,000 full-time equivalent employees and 65 sectors of the Frederick County economy, recognize that Longshots could be a more attractive dining and entertainment destination if they were able to feature historic horse racing machines.

We count Longshots OTB and Sports Book as a member-in-good-standing of our Chamber, and this new form of gaming entertainment would benefit this uniquely placed woman-owned business. The owner of Longshots has invested substantial financial resources into this beautiful state-of-the-art facility. Located directly adjacent to both Interstate 270 and Interstate 70, Longshots is uniquely positioned to siphon travelers from both West Virginia and Pennsylvania gaming destinations.

The advent of online gaming options places additional attraction burdens on our OTB facilities, and Longshots has shouldered some of that burden. In order to attract clients who seek a more vibrant gaming experience, both those who've never experienced horse racing and those drawn to a more engaging experience, coupled with great food and beverage options, the addition of HHR machines has the potential to dramatically increase the viability of our OTB and sports book facilities. That means additional critical revenue, at a moment in time where you, our legislative leaders, are seeking significant resources to address education shortfalls that call the promises made to our K-12 population into question.

We urge your favorable report, and support of SB982.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. B. Weldon, Jr.', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Richard B. Weldon, Jr
President/CEO

cc: Alyse Cohen, Cohenterprises, Inc.