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January 24, 2025

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Honorable Senator Guy Guzzone
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Honorable Senator Jim Rosapepe
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Dear Budget and Taxation Chair Senator Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe and members:

The Worcester County Commissioners strongly opposed SB 340 Internet Gaming. We are concerned the introduction of internet gaming to Maryland would threaten existing brick-and-mortar institutions, fuel gambling addictions and result in lost revenues to jurisdictions in Worcester County.

Worcester County is home to the Casino at Ocean Downs. Since opening its doors in 2011, the casino has grown to become a vital tourism and economic development partner, generating more than \$46.2 million in local impact grant (LIG) funds to Worcester County, Ocean City, Berlin and Ocean Pines. These funds are reinvested in our communities. Just a few of the many projects our jurisdictions have been able to fund, even in years of economic downturn, include improvements to roadways and bridges, upgrades to public safety radio systems, additional police vehicles, a new Berlin Police Department, and a new Worcester Technical High School that trains area youth for family-sustaining careers right here at home.

Unlike the Casino at Ocean Downs, which has established partnerships designed to attract residents and visitors to invest their discretionary income in area hotels, eateries and retail establishments, most online gaming operators are out-of-state. Every dollar spent gambling online would equate to a direct loss to our local economy. We respectfully urge you to oppose SB 340.

Sincerely,

Theodore J. Elder

President

Citizens and Government Working Together