

CHESAPEAKE GAMING, LLC

February 23, 2026

Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

On behalf of Chesapeake Gaming, a proud woman-owned sports and entertainment venue serving Boonsboro and Washington County, I respectfully submit this testimony in strong support of **Senate Bill 639**. This legislation is essential to preserving Maryland's legacy gaming facilities, protecting jobs, and preventing the continued loss of revenue to neighboring states.

Chesapeake Gaming is more than a business to us. My mother and I started this company together. We built it from the ground up, invested our own resources, and poured our hearts into creating a responsible, community-centered venue that supports local jobs and Maryland racing. Today, despite our efforts, the business is on the brink of closure. Without a modern technology upgrade through Historical Horse Racing (HHR), we do not have a viable path forward. This legislation is not about expansion for expansion's sake; it is about survival. HHR will save our business.

SB 639 is also a jobs bill. Authorization of HHR would allow Chesapeake Gaming to provide 100 new permanent jobs, all utilizing union labor. These are stable, local jobs that would otherwise be lost. Without the passage of SB 639, Chesapeake Gaming will be forced to close, resulting in job losses and reduced economic activity in the surrounding community.

From the State's perspective, this bill delivers significant upside with no public investment. SB 639 is projected to generate approximately \$100 million in new State tax revenue, benefiting the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, local impact grants, and other State priorities, without requiring the State to invest a single dollar. At the same time, Maryland is currently losing an estimated \$40 million annually in gaming revenue to West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Virginia — a figure that will continue to grow with the potential opening of the new casino in Tysons, Virginia. SB 639 allows Maryland to compete and keep those dollars at home.

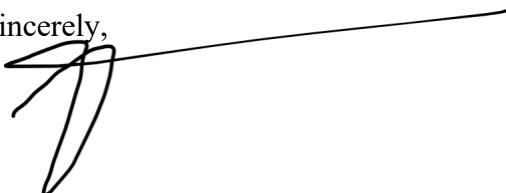
In short, SB 639 protects jobs, generates new revenue, stabilizes the racing and OTB industry, and stops the outflow of Maryland gaming dollars to surrounding states. It is a responsible, data-backed modernization that ensures Maryland does not fall further behind regional competitors.

For our family, this is deeply personal. We built Chesapeake Gaming together. We want to continue serving our community, employing local workers, and supporting Maryland racing for years to come. This technology upgrade is the bridge that allows us to do that.

For these reasons, Chesapeake Gaming respectfully urges the Committee to issue a favorable report on Senate Bill 639.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive name that is difficult to decipher. The signature is written over a horizontal line that extends across the width of the signature area.