

March 5, 2026

Good afternoon,

My name is Staci Carter. I am a full-time table games dealer at MGM National Harbor, where I have worked for five years. I am also the President of UAW Local 2503 representing table games and poker dealers at our property.

I am here in strong opposition to House Bills 1255 & 1343 and Senate Bills 761, 884, & 885

Casino dealing is a learned trade. We must attend dealer school and pass extensive background checks. We study procedures, game protection, math accuracy, and customer management. We practice for months and must pass rigorous auditions before ever stepping onto a live casino floor. This is a skilled profession.

And for dealers, tips are not a bonus — they make up the majority of our income. Online casino expansion directly threatens that income structure. Every player who chooses to gamble on a phone instead of sitting at a live table removes income from a trained Maryland worker. Electronic platforms do not tip. Software does not support families.

I also want to address the employee displacement funds included in these bills.- Which seems to be the only provision given to off set the estimated 1,290 to 1,611 jobs lost with passing of these bills. -- Displacement funds typically increase unemployment support. With respect, we are not asking for stronger unemployment benefits. We are asking to keep our jobs. We do not want help after harm is done — we want protection before it happens.

MGM National Harbor operates in the Washington, DC metropolitan area — one of the highest cost-of-living regions in the country. Our members work hard to maintain middle-class stability in an extremely expensive area. We cannot afford another drain on our salaries.

Maryland legalized casinos to create real, sustainable jobs for real families. I and the people I represent are not line items in a fiscal note. We are parents. We are homeowners. We are taxpayers. We built our lives around the promise that this industry would provide stable, in-person work.

Please do not replace skilled Maryland workers with software.

Please protect the jobs you helped create.

Thank you.