

W.M. RICKMAN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY LLC

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301-840-2011

March 5, 2026

Honorable Jheanelle Wilkins  
Chair  
Ways & Means Committee  
130 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, 21401

RE: Opposition to HB 1255, Internet Gaming

Dear Jheanelle,

As the former owner of two casinos, I am writing today in opposition to HB 1255.

Maryland's brick-and-mortar casinos are a cornerstone of the State's economy, driving substantial revenues to Maryland and its local communities. I know firsthand, that the casinos spent over \$3 billion in initial construction and another \$1 billion since opening. In addition, Maryland's "in person" casino gaming supports over 15,000 jobs.

I am very concerned that the introduction of iGaming would cannibalize our brick-and-mortar casinos which would adversely impact the casinos and the casino employees. I am also very worried that iGaming would fuel gambling addictions, since everyone would be able to gamble at any time, day or night, 24/7 on their smart phones or at home on their computers.

I hope that you and your committee members will give HB 1255 an unfavorable report.

Sincerely,



William M. Rickman