



September 20, 2022

Members of the House Gaming Oversight Committee,

We, the above listed casinos, on behalf of the 30,000+ Pennsylvania workers that our industry supports across the state, are writing to express our unanimous opposition to proposals to expand gaming in the commonwealth, specifically proposals that would lower the requirement in current state law that truck stops must sell an average of 50,000 gallons of diesel fuel monthly to qualify for a VGT license.

As you are aware, this specific requirement was negotiated by the General Assembly with the VGT operators, the casinos, and the truck stop owners as part of the 2017 legislation to expand gaming. It is important to note that the Legislature agreed to language that would allow a limited number of truck stops with a footprint that was designed for long-distance truckers only. This provision was meant to ensure that this limited gaming expansion would not interfere with the existing casinos, which have invested billions of dollars in capital costs, and paid \$50 million for a license.

This requirement was one of many changes to the state's gaming laws that was included in this legislation. It was agreed to by all parties as part of a broad re-write of the state's gaming statutes, with the participation of all stakeholders, including the Pennsylvania Lottery and your constituents who benefit from the enormous contributions that the state's licensed casinos provide to all taxpayers.

Any changes to the state's gaming laws should be subject to the same broad public debate and should not be considered in a vacuum. Pennsylvania's casino

industry has emerged as a national leader precisely because of this measured approach.

We urge you to consider that this industry:

- Generated approximately \$2.5 billion in tax revenue in the 21/22 FY year, the highest amount of gaming tax revenues of any state in the nation;
- Supports more than 30,000 jobs for Pennsylvanians across the state;
- Generates nearly \$1.8 billion annually in supported wages for direct and indirect jobs;
- Delivers more than \$150 million in annual local share grants to first responders and nonprofits in host communities;
- Invests more than \$500 million annually with Pennsylvania businesses.

These tax revenues and investments in communities across the commonwealth simply would not have occurred without the initial and on-going investments in our casinos, which are far more than four walls. Our casinos include restaurants, entertainment venues, hotels, and other amenities for our patrons, all of which help to create 30,000 jobs across Pennsylvania.

We look forward to partnering with members of this committee and the General Assembly to ensure that any additional changes to the state's gaming laws protect these jobs and these continuing investments in communities across our state.