



March 22, 2019

Senator Luchini, Representative Schneck and members of the VLA Joint Standing Committee:

My name is Kerrie Tripp. I am the Executive Director of the Greater Bangor Convention and Visitors Bureau and have been in this position for just over 10 years.

I am here to ask you to reject LD 1144, which would approve a third casino in the state of Maine.

As Director of the Greater Bangor Convention & Visitors Bureau, we are driven by attracting new people to the region and giving them reasons to tell their friends and to come back.

To do this, we study trends, look at what is happening around us, and communicating with other states and tourism-related businesses in the region.

Through some of these conversations, and just by reading the news, we know that a brand new casino is being built in Everett, Massachusetts and will be completed by June of this year. This casino will be a full-fledged resort, with an aim of attracting visitors not just in Massachusetts, but in surrounding states and other countries. It will have a 29-story hotel with views of the Boston skyline, table games, slot machines, and many elements you would expect to see at a resort casino. This development is going to have a significant impact on facilities like Foxwoods and Mohegan Sun as well as smaller facilities up and down the east coast like Hollywood Casino and Oxford Casino.

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Supporting a vibrant economy by increasing the number of visitors and conventions to the Greater Bangor Region

A few years ago Maine voters soundly rejected a new casino because – in part - we had not seen the impact of what Oxford Casino would be to Bangor. Today, this legislation would bypass Maine voters, and approve a new casino at a time when most of the gaming industry is watching New England with caution because of the potential impact of the new casino in Massachusetts.

There has been much debate about what a third casino would do to the existing two casinos in Maine. Casino operators have indicated that it would have another significant cut into revenues. I believe them. The people of Maine should always have a vote on this issue. Leaving that argument aside, this feels like the wrong time to be introducing a third casino within our state borders with so much activity happening outside our state's borders that could harm businesses and tourism.

I respectfully ask you to oppose LD 1144 and welcome any questions from members of the committee.

Thank you.



Kerrie Tripp

Executive Director

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