

**Testimony of Steve Silver, Chair of the Maine Gambling Control Board
In Support Of LD 793 - “An Act to Modernize Gaming Revenue Allocations and Increase
Efforts to Prevent Gambling Addiction”**

May 7, 2025

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and Members of the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs, my name is Steve Silver. I am the Chair of the Maine Gambling Control Board, and I am writing to voice my support of LD 793.

This is a much-needed review and modernization of the current tax cascades from gaming revenue. Although the ultimate policy choices are yours to make, I urge you to (1) assess the logic of subsidizing certain industries when there are many other more pressing issues in the state that could use funding; (2) review which current recipients are already receiving gaming revenues from multiple sources to prevent double (or quadruple dipping); and (3) commit to properly funding gambling addiction prevention and treatment.

That last point is perhaps most critical as Maine has rapidly expanded the gambling options available without increasing the amount of funds that go toward the Gambling Addiction Prevention and Treatment Fund established by Title 5, section 20006-B. Since the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2013, a set amount of \$100,000 from slot machine revenue goes toward that Fund. This is regardless of whether the slot machine tax generates \$1 million or \$100 million. For more than a decade there have been no inflationary increases. An increase is long overdue.

My fellow Board members and I are open to assist you in this endeavor should you need it.