

Testimony of Matthew Gallagher, General Manager, Oxford Casino Hotel

In Opposition to

LD 2070, An Act to Implement a Facility-based Monitoring System for Slot Machines

Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

January 17, 2024

Senator Hickman, Representative Lupica, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs, my name is Matt Gallagher, and I am General Manager of Oxford Casino Hotel in Oxford, Maine. I testify today in opposition to LD 2070.

Oxford Casino & Hotel opened for business June 6, 2012 on a 100-acre property along Route 26 in Oxford. In just over 10 years, the Casino has expanded three times, including a recent \$25 million investment in a 107-room hotel, 5,000 square foot multi-purpose event center, a new restaurant, and an expanded gaming floor. Currently, 963 slot machines and 30 table games are housed at the Casino, and three restaurants and two full bars operate on the property. Importantly, Oxford Casino employs over 375 Mainers – the vast majority with full benefits – bringing economic vitality to a region that sorely needs it.

First, we know of no issues with the current central monitoring system, which has been in place for over a decade. This system is working. Why change it now?

Second, having a slot machine monitoring system is not a requirement/process in all jurisdictions. But, anywhere such a system is used, that jurisdiction employs a central server set up like the one currently deployed.

Third, moving from a central monitoring system to a facility-based monitoring system would shift significant costs to the casinos with no obvious benefits. We estimate \$500,000 in fixed costs with additional ongoing costs and increased potential for fines.

Finally, such a change would require internal controls for both casinos to be amended.

Without a good explanation of why the State has decided to move away from a system that has been working for years, we cannot support LD 2070.

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