

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and distinguished members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs, my name is Cynthia Robbins, and I am the owner and operator of the Poland Spring Resort and Golf Course.

I am providing testimony in opposition to LD 1902, An Act to Support Non-profit Organizations by Authorizing the Operation of Electronic Lucky Seven Devices and Similar Sealed Ticket Games.

Poland Spring started as a stagecoach stop back in 1794 when George Washington was President. For over 150 years, Poland Spring was owned and operated by the Ricker family. Hard times struck in World War II, and consequently many ownership changes happened until my husband, and I began its transformation in 1972.

Through years of hard work, we ultimately prevailed and were successful. With our staff, we have brought over 20,000 visitors a year to Maine to enjoy our golf course and other amenities. We employ 150 residents in full and seasonal part-time jobs.

Our Resort is also a foundering member of the Gems of 26, a group of non-profits and for-profit businesses including Shaker Village, McLaughlin Gardens, The Maine State Building, and Maine Wildlife Park along Route 26.

I was also Chairman of Poland's Community and Economic Development Committee for many years. I also sit on Hospitality Committee for LA Metro Chamber, and a Member of the Oxford Chamber. All these Organizations have hugely benefited from the increased tourist that the Oxford Casino has brought us.

The extensive number of new visitors to Western Maine since the opening of Oxford Casino more than 10 years ago has provided my businesses and the other businesses of the region with a much needed shot in the arm. Many of the casino customers have stayed at my inns and eaten at my restaurants.

Before the Casino opened in 2013, our business was seasonal; now, thanks to steady year-round visitors, we operate all year and have created more jobs. The Casino made this possible. In other states, machines like those proposed resemble slot machines and introducing them across Maine would likely reduce Casino patrons and impact local businesses like mine.

We are starting to finally recover from Covid-era losses, both in staffing levels and visitation, however this recovery remains fragile. I respectfully ask that you do not undermine the economic progress that our area has experienced by authorizing casino-style machines in nearby communities. Thanks for your time. I would be happy to answer questions.