



January 14, 2026

Good morning, my name is Chris Jackson and I'm here today to testify on behalf of my client, PENN Entertainment, the operator of Hollywood Casino Bangor, in opposition to LD 1902.

As you are well aware, Hollywood Casino has been a major economic engine and taxpayer since PENN invested over \$130 million to develop and open the property 18 years ago. Since then, PENN has continued to invest tens of millions more into the facility and currently employs nearly 300 Maine residents, as well as supporting thousands of indirect jobs and extensive economic and charitable activity in Penobscot County and beyond. Hollywood Casino is also home to a 152-room hotel and is the sole permanent harness racetrack in operation in Maine.

Most notably, Hollywood Casino has paid \$478M in taxes to the state and city of Bangor since opening, including nearly \$26M alone in gaming taxes last year. Together with our counterparts at Oxford, Maine's casino tax revenue supports 19 worthwhile recipient organizations in the tax cascade, including various education programs from kindergarten through college, the Healthy Maine Fund and, importantly, Veterans' assistance programs.

As the Chairman of the Maine Gambling Control Board testified to last year in his opposition to the iGaming bill, the state's commercial casinos will be at a severe competitive disadvantage once iGaming goes into effect, jeopardizing gaming and associated tax revenues and jobs in Bangor and Oxford. Coupling this risk by adding yet another new gaming product – slot machines at thousands of charitable organizations and Veterans clubs throughout the state – risks even further losses of tax revenue and jobs.

Electronic pull tabs are just another name for slot machines. As I have shown before and as you can see here – or even see for yourself with a simple google search of "electronic pull tabs" – it is clear that what waddles like a duck, and quacks like a duck... is a duck, or a slot machine in this instance. There is no clearer explanation than what the owner of the largest slot machine company said about these machines when they recently purchased the charitable gaming company Grover Gaming: "These are slot machines on slot cabinets".

Allowing these machines throughout Maine will also further erode and ultimately risk destroying the states strong responsible gaming framework. Without the highly regulated framework with strict MGCB oversight that is currently in place within the four walls of the state's casinos, there will be no protection from minors playing or protection for those suffering from gambling addiction, and no way to ensure criminal elements are kept away.

Importantly, Maine's Veterans benefit from the tax cascade currently in place for the commercial casinos. They are also a beneficiary in the new cascade for the tribal-only iGaming law, making them one of the few recipients who will receive financial support from both laws. The same

cannot be said for many other worthy causes, including K-12 education, members of the agricultural industry, and our home city of Bangor. Another expansion of gaming, this time with slot machines at veterans' halls, will further cannibalize gaming and tax revenue, negatively affect the cascade recipients, risk more job loss in Bangor and Oxford, and deter any future investment at the state's commercial gaming properties.

The legalization of iCasino without voter approval was already an unprecedented act that will put our communities at a severe disadvantage – we urge you to not make the same mistake again.

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GROVER GAMING

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Thank you for supporting Boys and Girls Club Of The Red River Valley

