

Betsy Lundy
Bangor
LD 1902

Written Testimony of Betsy Lundy
Executive Director, Downtown Bangor Partnership
In Opposition to LD 1902 — An Act to Support Nonprofit Organizations by
Authorizing the Operation of Electronic Lucky Seven Devices and Similar Sealed
Ticket Games

To:

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica,
and Esteemed Members of the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

My name is Betsy Lundy, and I serve as the Executive Director of the Downtown Bangor Partnership. I am submitting this written testimony to respectfully express opposition to LD 1902.

While the intent of LD 1902 — supporting nonprofits, including organizations serving veterans — is laudable and widely supported, this bill would authorize widespread use of electronic pull-tab and “Lucky Seven” style gaming devices that are functionally similar to slot machines. This represents a meaningful expansion of gaming in Maine with significant economic consequences for Downtown Bangor and the region.

Over the past decade, Bangor has benefited from millions of dollars in private investment anchored by Hollywood Casino Bangor, which has been a cornerstone in our downtown’s revitalization. Those investments have:

Created and sustained local jobs

Generated critical tax revenue, including support for the debt service on the Cross Insurance Center, a regional hub for events and tourism

Elevated Bangor’s status as a destination, drawing visitors who support our hotels, restaurants, cultural institutions, retail shops, and service businesses

Produced widespread economic impact across the community and region

LD 1902 would introduce a category of electronic gaming that directly competes for the same customer base. As seen in other states, these devices operate much like slot machines and pull discretionary entertainment dollars away from regulated commercial gaming venues, undermining the economic engines that currently help sustain Bangor’s growth. If customers migrate away from Hollywood Casino, we risk losing jobs, tax revenue, and tourism spending, as well as jeopardizing the long-term viability of investments that have benefited the entire community.

Supporting veterans and nonprofits is a shared priority. However, doing so by introducing electronic gaming that could destabilize an established economic anchor is not sound policy. We encourage the Legislature to pursue alternative methods to support nonprofit fundraising that do not unintentionally erode Bangor’s economic base.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to oppose LD 1902.

Thank you for your consideration.