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March 12, 2010

The Honorable Stanley C. Rosenberg
State Senator
Massachusetts Senate
State House, Room 320
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Senator Rosenberg:

For the past 2 ½ years the Western Massachusetts Casino Task Force (aka WMCAT) has been studying the potential issues facing communities in the Quaboag Valley region from the possible legalization of casino gambling in the Commonwealth. Through our efforts we have created a list of 8 major areas of concern (copy attached) and 15 other significant issues which any casino enabling legislation should address to mitigate the possible impacts on our communities including our municipal budgets.

Our number one priority requests that the legislature conduct an independent cost-benefit analysis and develop data-driven budgets by region that account for fiscal revenues and both operating and capital investment expenses resulting from expanded gambling/gaming on the proposed host and abutting communities. In our judgment, the recent economic downturn warrants our taking a fresh look at the cost-benefit picture prior to passage of expanded gambling/gaming legislation.

Therefore, I would like to ask you as a representative of one or more of the WMCAT towns to write a letter endorsing the need for such a study to Senator Karen E. Spilka and Representative Brian S. Dempsey, Chairs of the Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies. If you decide to support this request, we would appreciate your sharing this response with our Task Force.

Senator Steven M. Brewer has agreed with such action, and a copy of his letter is attached.

Thank you for your help with this matter.

Sincerely,



Edward S. Harrison, Chairman
Western Massachusetts Casino Task Force

Email: esharr@earthlink.net

Tel. 413-267-3762

Attachment

