

RALPH C. JONES, JR.

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1 March 2021

RE:

Senate Bill 146: An Act Authorizing Sports Wagering, Online Casino Gambling, Online Lottery and Online Keno and

Senate Bill 570: An Act Authorizing a Tribal Resort-Casino in Bridgeport, Sports Wagering, Internet Gaming and Internet Lottery.

Representative Horn
Senator Bradley
Members of the Public Safety and Security Committee

I am writing in opposition to both of these bills.

I have heard it said that we need to do this because the neighboring states are doing it. How does that make it right for us? Some people may be able to gamble “responsibly,” but far too often this addiction means tragedy for the gambler and especially the gambler’s family.

Why would we want to encourage self-destructive behavior? Is that any way to balance a budget?

Also, as more and more casinos have opened here in Connecticut and in neighboring states, the revenues from existing locations are decreasing. There is good reason to expect additional casinos will disappoint in many ways.

We can do better than this. We do not need more casinos and more gambling. What we have is already destructive enough.

Thank you for your attention.

Ralph Jones

cc: Senator Looney, Representative D’Agostino