

July 12, 2016

The Honorable Stanley Rosenberg
Senate President
State House, Room 332
Boston, MA 02133

RE: Fantasy sports provisions in economic development bill

Dear Senate President Rosenberg,

As leaders of organizations devoted to promoting entrepreneurship and a healthy innovation economy in Massachusetts, we are writing to express our support for the provisions regarding fantasy sports included in the economic development bill passed by the House last week, and that the Senate is now considering. These simple provisions, while maintaining our state's strongest in the nation consumer protections, offer DraftKings the certainty it needs to continue as a long-term employer and innovator in Massachusetts.

DraftKings is a Massachusetts success story – it was founded in Watertown and has continued to grow here, bringing new jobs and opportunities to our community. DraftKings' success helps position Massachusetts as a global destination for consumer technology, and a place where tech entrepreneurs can thrive.

DraftKings has been recruited to move to other states, including California, but chose to remain in Massachusetts. Since that time, many states have proactively clarified the legal status of fantasy sports. California also has a pending bill, and New York has taken a major step towards doing this, passing a bill in the legislature that simply awaits the Governor's signature. States that have explicitly clarified the legal status of fantasy sports would be more natural and stable long-term bases of operations for DraftKings.

Massachusetts has an opportunity to continue to foster a supportive, stable ecosystem for tech companies, and show that we can implement smart regulations and laws that attract talent and make it easier for startups to launch and grow their business. The legislature has acted with foresight before to enhance Massachusetts' competitiveness, and can do so again by passing this bill to support a home-based employer like DraftKings.

We urge you to take this proactive step to protect jobs and innovation in our state, all while maintaining our strong consumer protections. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Chris Anderson
President, Massachusetts High Tech Council

Scott Bailey
Managing Director, MassChallenge Boston

Corey Thomas
President and CEO, Rapid7

Jody Rose
Exec. Director, New England Venture Capital Assoc.