

M A S S A C H U S E T T S
HIGHTECHNOLOGYCOUNCIL

Dedicated to Growth... Committed to Action

June 16, 2021

Massachusetts General Court
Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies
Rooms 410 and 42
State House
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Members of the Economic Development Committee,

Since we last urged you to consider the significant economic development opportunity of gaming technology in May 2019, conditions in Massachusetts and across the country have changed in many ways. Since then, more than 25 other states have passed legislation enabling online betting companies to thrive. This group includes states like Connecticut and New York—states that Massachusetts competes with for firms and talent. Competition is fiercer than ever in the post-COVID economy in which barriers to relocation have never been lower for employers and their workers.

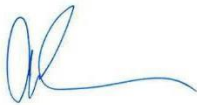
On every front, the evidence continues to mount that it would benefit the Commonwealth to adopt legislation authorizing online sports wagering. Not doing so would give businesses incentive to move jobs to states that do not restrict innovation.

Massachusetts has been a central driver of a burgeoning sports-technology sector, with emerging companies leading developments in artificial intelligence, analytics, cybersecurity, machine learning, and virtual reality. New sports betting technologies are an increasingly critical part of our innovation economy, providing well-paying jobs and creating platforms that are redefining consumer experiences. Sports-technology companies have also been proactive in incorporating important consumer protection and problem gambling measures such as age-verification, wager limits, and self-exclusion. Their products and services have been instrumental in reducing black market activities that present greater risks to the public without oversight.

Throughout Massachusetts' history, the legislature has taken decisive steps to support our innovation economy. We hope you will embrace this important opportunity and lead once again by passing forward-looking and technology-focused sports betting legislation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Christopher Anderson
President