

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

Dedicated to Growth... Committed to Action

July 20, 2021

The Honorable Representative Ronald Mariano
3rd Norfolk
State House, Room 356
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Speaker Mariano,

The Massachusetts High Technology Council continues to be engaged in sustaining the Commonwealth's innovation economy as we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic and many industries navigate uncertainty and changes in consumer habits and work norms. We are committed to working with policymakers to enhance our competitive strengths and address where we need to improve.

Sports wagering is an area in which we have seen accelerated change in consumer technology. As the House moves forward with debating bill H.3974 An Act to Regulate Sports Wagering on Thursday, we thank you for your leadership on this issue and urge you and your colleagues to vote favorably, once again, to advance the legislation to the Senate as expeditiously as possible.

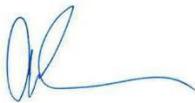
For the more than 30 states that have now passed sports betting legislation, the booming industry has provided significant benefits in additional tax revenue and improved public oversight, reducing consumer risks from illegitimate wagering. Unfortunately, Massachusetts has been slow to establish a formal framework for sports betting platforms to operate. And the costs of the state legislature's delay are significant.

Neighboring states like New Hampshire and Connecticut, who have passed sports wagering legislation, have been attracting Massachusetts residents who would otherwise be gaming in the Commonwealth. In addition to the foregone revenue to other states in the region, a lack of an existing regulatory framework makes it difficult for homegrown firms to scale their business and create more jobs here. Delaying sports wagering legislation is delaying new revenue sources that support labor market growth at a time of critical transition.

As we advised in our June 16 letter to the Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies, we urge you to embrace this important opportunity and follow the lead of our peers by moving aggressively to pass forward-looking and technology-friendly sports betting legislation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Christopher Anderson
President