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Brian Masse

MP/ Député

Dear Senator,

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to appear before you last Thursday October 3, 2012 at the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee to present bill C-290 An Act to Amend the Criminal Code (Sports Betting). I appreciate your consideration and the thoughtful comments, questions and discussion.

As I indicated in my comments, I was there to carry forward the bill on behalf of my colleague, Joe Comartin who, because of rules surrounding his new position as Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons, prevents him from appearing at Committee to advance his Private Members Bill. While, I have not been working on the file as long as my colleague, I am pleased to work with the Senate to advance this legislation.

I believe Bill C-290 is an important piece of legislation for several reasons. Firstly, it will allow the provinces to police an unregulated market and in so doing, return the economic benefits of sports betting to our communities while reducing the influence of organized crime. Secondly, it will allow provincial gaming authorities the ability to give to our Canadian gaming operators a distinct competitive advantage over their US competitors, and offer the 100 million US gaming patrons within a six-hour drive of a Canadian border casino, a complete gaming experience which is only currently available to them in Las Vegas. This legislation has support from all the provinces of Canada and was adopted by unanimous consent of the House of Commons – two increasingly rare occurrences.

Again, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to appear before your committee and hope that after thorough deliberation, you will support bill C-290. If you have any additional questions regarding the bill please feel free to contact me at 613-996-1541 brian.masse@parl.gc.ca or Mr. Comartin's Legislative Assistant, Geoff Hall at 613-947-3446 joe.comartin.a1@parl.gc.ca.

Yours truly,



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