

# WINDSOR-ESSEX REGIONAL Chamber of Commerce

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November 21, 2012

Dear Senator:

The Windsor-Essex Regional, Greater Niagara, and Ontario chambers speak for more than 60,000 businesses across Ontario. We have been especially struck by the extensive coverage in the media regarding Bill C-290, An Act to amend the Criminal Code (sport betting) and how senators may vote on it at Third Reading.

The discussion surrounding C-290 as it has proceeded through the Senate is particularly perplexing given that the bill received all-party support in the House of Commons, which highlighted the bill's economic and social benefits which include:

- Offering people a legal alternative to illegal single event betting involving organized crime
- An additional source of provincial revenue to support social programs including healthcare and education
- The creation of additional jobs at provincially-operated/regulated casinos
- An additional value proposition for U.S. citizens deciding where to spend their tourism dollars. This is of particular importance to border communities whose economies have been hit particularly hard by recent increases in duty-free limits for Canadians and lagging U.S. tourism traffic due to our high dollar

Bill C-290 would not automatically open the floodgates on betting on single sporting events. If passed, this bill would delete the specific provisions of the Criminal Code that make it illegal to bet on "any race or fight, or on a single sports event or athletic contest." The provinces, under whose jurisdiction gaming has exclusively resided since 1985, would then have the policy lever to decide whether or not, and under what conditions, wagering on single sporting events will be permitted to occur.

Before voting on Bill C-290, we ask that you carefully consider its potential economic and social benefits. It is our hope that after doing so, you will support it.

Sincerely,



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The Windsor-Essex  
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