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Chambers urge single-sports betting passage

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Dave Hall

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Citing tens of millions of dollars in potential lost gambling revenue on this weekend's Super Bowl, Chamber of Commerce organizations in Windsor and Niagara Falls continue to press for passage of a single-sport betting bill which has been bogged down in the Canadian Senate for almost two years.

A study prepared by HLT Advisory for the Canadian Gaming Association claims that single-sports betting would generate between \$18 million and \$24 million in gaming win annually at Caesars Windsor and a further \$9 million to \$12 million at casinos in Niagara Falls, a large portion of which would have been bet this weekend when the Seattle Seahawks take on the Denver Broncos in New Jersey.

“This is yet another missed opportunity to showcase Caesars Windsor and enhance our competitive position in a tough marketplace,” said Matt Marchand, president and CEO of the Windsor Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce. “Allowing the province to decide and having

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single-sports betting at Caesars Windsor for Super Bowl weekend would unquestionably add significant economic activity and excitement to our region.”

The HLT report estimates that such betting would also generate between \$5 and \$7 million in ancillary revenue at Caesars and a further \$3 million at Niagara casinos.

“It’s hard to believe this has been on the senate agenda for nearly two years with little or no action when it has received strong support in the House,” said Dolores Fabiano, executive director of the Niagara Falls Chamber.

Bill C-290 has the support of nine provinces in addition to chambers of commerce organizations, economic development agencies, labour organizations and provincial gaming regulators across Canada.

It has also received all-party support in the House of Commons but is opposed by professional sports leagues.



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