

Local Chamber supports betting bill



Matt Marchand, president and CEO of Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce. (Windsor Star files, 2012)



[Dave Hall](#)

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Matt Marchand, president and CEO of the Windsor Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce, will be in Ottawa Thursday lending the region's support to a single sports betting bill which has been bogged down in the Senate for more than a year.

Marchand will be joined by representatives of other chamber organizations across Canada including Niagara Falls as well as the Canadian Gaming Association.

“With Windsor’s proximity to Detroit, our upscale casino and the need for jobs in this region, we would definitely see an improvement to our local and provincial economy should Bill C-290 pass,” said Marchand. “The Chamber coalition supporting Bill C-290 continues to grow across the country with support from the Atlantic Chamber of Commerce and the Federation des chambres de commerce du Quebec.”

Introduced by MP Joe Comartin (NDP-Windsor Tecumseh) , the bill is now sponsored by MP Brian Masse (NDP-Windsor West).

The bill would delete 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.

The bill receive all party support in the House of Commons but is opposed by major sports leagues including the National Hockey League.