



**Testimony of Debbie Cyr, Finance Director, City of Bangor, before the
Veterans & Legal Affairs Committee
April 27, 2015**

Senator Cyrway, Representative Luchini, and members of the Veterans & Legal Affairs Committee, my name is Debbie Cyr. I am the City of Bangor Finance Director and am testifying today in opposition to LD 1066, LD 1213, LD 1280, LD 1283, LD 1346 and LD 1357.

As the Finance Director, I am concerned about the potential financial impact on Bangor with the expansion of gaming within the State of Maine. From the start of gaming in Bangor, the City designated any funds received for the purpose of replacing our aging auditorium. Undertaking the replacement of such a significant regional asset was not something that could have been accomplished without gaming. To date, the Cross Insurance Center has played host to over 180,000 people, sold \$3.3 million in tickets over 199 unique events and shows. All of this economic activity benefits our City, our region and the State of Maine.

The City of Bangor recognizes that there will be expansion of gaming in the State of Maine, but wants to ensure parity in that future expansion are held to a similar standard as has had to have been met by the current facilities. To that end, any expansion of gaming within the State Maine must require a statewide vote in addition to a local vote.

We are also concerned about a potential oversaturation of the market. We would urge caution in developing a predetermined number of markets and facilities that the State can support. In addition, while Bangor is supportive of overall tax reform, we are concerned about tying the expansion of gaming to income tax relief. The State of Maine receives a substantial amount of funding now from gaming operations, which could be dedicated for this purpose already.

We applaud the State for wanting to implement a comprehensive plan regarding the expansion of gaming in the State of Maine. Lastly, we are supportive of requiring developers to commit to significant levels of capital investment. This would lessen the potential of devaluing existing operations.

Thank you for your time and attention. For additional information, please feel free to contact me directly at debbie.cyr@bangormaine.gov or 992-4253.

