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December 3, 2015

Stephen Crosby
Massachusetts Gaming Commission Chair
Massachusetts Gaming Commission
101 Federal Street, 12th Floor
Boston, MA 02110

Chairman Stephen Crosby and members of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission,

On behalf of the membership of the Springfield Regional Chamber, I am hereby reaffirming this chamber's support of and belief in the MGM Springfield proposal after consideration given to their announced changes to their original proposal.

As you know, this Chamber has been involved in this issue of a gaming/entertainment facility in the city of Springfield for over three years, as you have as well. We, like you, have done all of our due diligence and early on believed that MGM was the right choice to be granted a license and we continue to believe so. That belief is actually stronger now due to our constant conversations with them, evidence of their commitment to local and regional labor and vendors, and our belief in their plan.

The current changes they announced, mostly the redesign of the hotel, does not change the overall commitment made in their earlier presentations. While the loss of a structure that would have caught one's eye is unfortunate, I would like to list what I believe are the most important features in their plan:

- The fact that MGM is a worldwide recognized leader in the gaming-entertainment industry that wants to be in Springfield and will attract others to look at our city.
- That MGM is investing \$ 950 million or more predominately in the south end of the city.
- A commitment to try and spend at least \$ 50 million per year on goods and services with vendors in this region.
- That the facility still includes a world class gaming facility, a four star 250 room hotel, family entertainment areas for movies, bowling, skating, and other activities.
- Outdoor spaces that can be used for various functions and community events.
- Additional restaurant and retail sector venues complimentary to what we currently have.
- Spreading their market rate apartments, still in their plan, to other downtown sites enhances efforts underway of bringing back the entire downtown and enhance it as a walkable city.
- 2000 construction jobs, jobs for an industry that has seen double digit unemployment numbers for too many years.
- 3000 permanent jobs with 1000 of those targeted for Springfield residents, a city that has a current unemployment rate roughly 70% higher than that state's average.

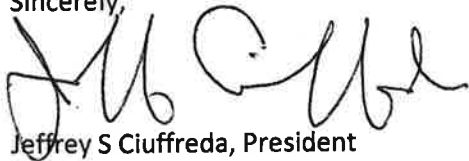
These facts, along with others, are the factors that earned this chamber's support and that are still in their plans.

I would like to also add that what is not in the plan is important as well. There still is not a large exhibition hall which means their plan to still use the Mass Mutual Center for their world class entertainment, as well as their support of City Stage and Symphony Hall is still in their plans and commitments.

The bottom line is everything that the people of Springfield approved and that the Massachusetts Gaming Commission approved, is intact and it is time to move forward, get the demolition underway and the cranes in the air. Any further delays in this \$ 950 million economic development plan is not only counterproductive to this development but sends a negative signal to those others that are currently watching this development and how it is received in the city.

On behalf of the members of the Springfield Regional Chamber, thank you for this opportunity to be heard on this matter and for your continued interest and deliberations. I look forward to working with you in the future and as always, please feel free to contact me to discuss this matter or any others of interest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeffrey S Ciuffreda', written in a cursive style.

Jeffrey S Ciuffreda, President
Springfield Regional Chamber of Commerce