

USS MASS - UNITED TO STOP SLOTS IN MASSACHUSETTS
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October 11, 2009

Dear Candidate for US Senate;

United to Stop Slots in Massachusetts is a non-partisan grassroots statewide coalition of individuals and organizations opposed to expanding predatory gambling and legalizing slots in Massachusetts. We are writing to you with a brief questionnaire to determine your positions on various issues related to gambling. We appreciate your willingness to review and respond to the questions below. As a candidate for US Senate we look forward to learning more about your thinking on these matters. Please return the questionnaire by **October 30, 2009** to the address listed below.

1. What is your opinion of the SCOTUS decision (*Carcieri*- February 2009) relative to lands into trust?

It is important to be sensitive to issues of identity and self-definition, with regard to Native Americans and, indeed, to all persons. That said, the larger community is affected by decisions governing recourse to the Indian Reorganization Act. I am open to considering legislation addressing the issues around taking land into trust raised in *Carcieri v. Salazar*.

2. How would you vote on the proposals for a “Carcieri fix”? Please explain.

I would have to study each proposal further. But S. 1703, legislation to reaffirm the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for Indian tribes, aims to treat all recognized tribes equally. I do not believe that one set of tribes should benefit more than another set of tribes simply because of when that federal recognition occurred.

3. What is your opinion of the National Gambling Impact Study Commission Report (1999) and what recommendations should be enacted at this time?

This report is now a decade old. I believe some of its recommendations are in effect now, including barring minors from casinos. I support its suggestions to extend labor rights to employees of tribal casinos, such as the right to organize. I prefer a greater emphasis on non-casino job

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creation on reservations suffering from high rates of unemployment. With regard to the NIH, I prefer that scientists rather than politicians set research priorities.

4. Do you support an independent cost-benefit analysis before legalizing any expansion of predatory gambling/slots in the Commonwealth?

Yes, an independent analysis would help determine the value of developing casinos in Massachusetts. I am particularly interested in gauging the number of jobs which could be created and the extent of economic growth that could be expected to follow. Casinos, combined with hotels, retail stores, and restaurants, may provide a profitable opportunity for the Commonwealth. I am hesitant, however, to believe slot machines would provide the same job opportunities as they seem to require significantly fewer employees to operate.

Please use any additional space for your responses. Completed questionnaires should be returned by **October 30, 2009** to:

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