

USS MASS - UNITED TO STOP SLOTS IN MASSACHUSETTS
WWW.USS-MASS.ORG

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?

Let me say upfront that I oppose any attempt to open casinos in our Commonwealth. I share the goal of doing everything possible to create jobs and get Massachusetts back on its feet, but I do not believe that we should trade our Commonwealth's democratic tradition and historical role as a pioneer in social equality for an industry that disproportionately impacts the most vulnerable members of our society. I will do everything I can to keep casino gambling out of Massachusetts.

The Court's decision in *Carcieri* stripped away the Department of the Interior's ability to secure lands for Tribes and threatened planning for those Tribes who were recognized after the 1934 Indian Reorganization Act, regardless of whether this had anything to do with casino gambling. An amendment should be adopted to change the ambiguous language of the Act to ensure that the Department of the Interior continues to help *all* Tribes to maintain land that is of great cultural importance and essential to their livelihood. Therefore, I would vote affirmatively on a "Carcieri fix" to restore equal opportunity to all Tribes – but *only* if it contained a requirement to limit the use of lands taken into trust and prohibit their use for gaming.

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

Please see above.

President: Kathleen Conley Norbut
Clerk: Michael Falcone

Vice-President: Bob Massie
Treasurer: Sue Kennedy

Directors: Les Bernal, Tom Larkin, Kelly Marcimo, Jessie Powell, Mary Tufts

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

The casino industry has spent \$250 million dollars on lobbying over the past decade in the pursuit of personal gain rather than the public good. That special and narrow interest has been heard. Now, we, as citizens, need to be heard. And our concerns need to be heeded. Before we take the grave step of introducing casino gambling to Massachusetts, we must undertake a cost/benefit analysis for our state and educate our neighbors about the grave costs of introducing casino gambling, as recommended in the National Gambling Impact Study Commission Report.

But that cost/benefit analysis cannot simply be measured in economic costs alone. We must also consider what we value as a community. While we must commit ourselves to creating jobs and while monetary costs and benefits must be measured, we must not lose sight of what we treasure most in life. We must ask ourselves if casino gambling is worth it even at the expense of those among us who are most vulnerable. We must ask ourselves if casino low wage jobs are worth witnessing the lives of our neighbors destroyed by gambling addiction. We must ask ourselves what will casino gambling cost to our state pride. Do we want to raise our children in a state with casinos? How will casino gambling compromise Massachusetts as a beacon of hope and inspiration around the world? And why when Massachusetts has such a rich tradition of innovation do we need to desperately reach for a perceived quick fix that will cost us both immediately and so dearly down the road?

Through City Year and Be the Change, Inc., I've worked in our neighborhoods and communities for over twenty years. I know people are hurting. Too many of us have lost our jobs, homes, retirement savings and our children's dream of a college education. We need jobs. And while casino gambling sounds enticing and has been presented as a quick fix, it's not the answer for Massachusetts. We need to get back to basics: invest in good, high paying jobs, improve U.S. productivity, increase savings, reduce debt, strengthen families, educate our children, and invent more products and services to export.

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

As indicated above, I strongly recommend such an analysis.

Please use any additional space for your responses. Completed questionnaires should be returned by **October 30, 2009** (extended to November 20, 2009) to:

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