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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
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AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0001

March 17, 2021

Honorable Louis Luchini, Chair
Honorable Christopher Caiazzo, Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs
State House, Room 437
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Senator Luchini and Representative Caiazzo:

I am writing to you to convey thoughts regarding L.D. 554, *An Act to Create Gaming Equity and Fairness for the Native American Tribes in Maine* and, more generally, gaming in Maine.

In a veto message to the Legislature a year ago the Governor expressed her concerns about whether Maine people are comfortable with the expansion of legalized gambling opportunities that would have been allowed under that bill, L.D. 553. She also questioned whether the regulatory structure that L.D. 553 would have established was sufficiently robust to protect Maine people. The bill before you today, L.D. 554, would allow for more gambling in Maine without a referendum requirement to confirm that broad public support for this expansion exists. The nature and extent of regulatory oversight that would accompany gaming under this bill is also unclear. The Governor urges the Committee to give due consideration to these concerns, which are not unique to Tribal gaming, in its review of this proposed legislation.

Sincerely,

Tim Feeley
Deputy Legal Counsel



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