



League of Women Voters New Hampshire
4 Park St., Suite 200
Concord NH

February 15, 2015

RE: **SB113** relative to video lottery and table gaming

Dear Senator Boutin and members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee:

Since 1919, the League of Women Voters New Hampshire has been advocating for government laws and policies that benefit the citizens of our state. LWVNH supports legislation only if it fits within stringent guidelines established after intensive study, research and then agreement by our members.

The League opposes SB 113 because it violates basic principles of sound tax policy. The first and foremost criterion for any tax is that it provides a reliable source of revenue. On this point, casino revenue has failed the test in every state that has tried it.

Gambling markets are reaching saturation and the casino industry is in decline. This is why no state that became dependent upon casino revenue has stopped with a single casino. Just like a gambling addict who can't stop chasing losses, or a drug addict who needs a stronger dose to reach the same high, states with budget dependency upon declining casino revenues see little choice but to deepen their dependency and add more locations to gamble.

Jobs are relatively low paying, with many positions paying less than \$10-\$12/hour and many tip-based and part-time. Casino gambling will cannibalize the businesses in our state, and, unlike our local restaurants, motels, theaters and other businesses depending on our money, the profits from casino gambling will go to out of state and out of country owners.

League supports tax policy based on ability to pay, which is levied on a broad segment of the population, and where appropriate, a tax that is a direct payment for a service or benefit ("user's tax"). Most people do not gamble and frequently, those who do are in a financial bind, hope they will get lucky, and are being misled by sophisticated computer software that is programmed to make them think they "just missed."

We celebrate the family-friendly recreational opportunities in the state and do not want to add to the increasing chemical and alcohol addiction already identified in the state. Expanded gambling will not provide the opportunities we all want to enable young families to remain and thrive here.

We look forward to the time when bills proposing more gambling as a revenue source are no longer taking the creative attention of the NH legislature and Governor to advance so that we can move forward as a state.

The League of Women Voters NH urges you to vote that SB113 is **Inexpedient to Legislate**.

Thank You,

Sally Davis and Liz Tentarelli, Co-Presidents

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