

THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK



SENATOR
PAMELA A. HELMING
54TH DISTRICT

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LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON
RURAL RESOURCES

June 13, 2023

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul,

As State Senator for the 54th District, representing Finger Lakes Gaming & Racetrack in Farmington, Ontario County, I request and urge you to consider the viewpoints of local officials, communities and businesses that could be negatively impacted by a potential Seneca Nation casino in the City of Rochester or the suburbs of Monroe County.

Any discussion of a potential casino should not only involve local officials and stakeholders in Rochester and Monroe County – it should also involve those in the Finger Lakes region, including Ontario County and Finger Lakes Gaming & Racetrack in my district, as well as Seneca County and del Lago Resort & Casino, and Genesee County and Batavia Downs Gaming & Hotel.

A Seneca Nation casino could put these businesses at severe risk and jeopardize local jobs, tax revenues and our economy, as well as the critical infrastructure projects and other investments they make possible in our communities.

Collectively, Finger Lakes Gaming, del Lago and Batavia Gaming provide 4,000 jobs and pay over \$140 million in annual gaming taxes to the state. These three facilities attract a large portion of their patrons from the Rochester area.

In my district, Finger Lakes Gaming employs over 1,500 local residents and supports the region's agriculture and equine economies through racing. Many of our farmers and small businesses supply and work with Finger Lakes Gaming. As Governor, and as a former local elected official, I know you can appreciate that Ontario County would be a very different community without Finger Lakes Gaming & Racetrack.

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Any consideration of another gaming facility in the Finger Lakes region should include input from taxpayers, elected officials and community leaders, farmers and businesses, and other gaming facilities that could be negatively impacted by this decision.

Regional stakeholders deserve to be heard in this process and I urge you to give taxpayers full transparency.

As State Senator, and a member of the Senate Racing, Gaming and Wagering Committee, I am prepared to assist your office in ensuring these additional voices are heard.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Pam", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Pamela A. Helming
Senator, 54th District