Chairman Marvin Abney
House Committee on Finance
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02908

March 7, 2021

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the House Finance Committee:

I am writing in support of Speaker Shekarchi's Bill, H5223, which would allow the State of RI to enter into a long-term economic development agreement with IGT and Twin River. My representative is Representative Deborah Ruggiero.

My name is Candace McAloon. I am a resident of Jamestown for 19 years and was raised in North Smithfield. As a lifelong Rhode Islander, I attended the University of Rhode Island and Rhode Island College where I received a BS in Psychology and Early Childhood education. Upon graduation, I was unable to obtain a full-time teaching position in a public school. As unfortunate as that seemed at the time, that led me to find employment in a corporate environment. I was hired as an administrative assistant at GTECH in 1998 and spent two years there before moving to Florida in 2000 when I married my husband, who at the time had a business in South Florida. We both missed Rhode Island so when the opportunity to sell his business came about, that landed us back in the state where we were both born and raised. Upon returning from Florida in 2002, I was rehired by GTECH as an Executive Assistant. Now I am the Senior Executive Assistant to the Chief Technology Officer. Since I work for an executive whose job is not tied to the Rhode Island contract, my position is at risk if the state does not protect our 1,100 jobs by voting yes on IGT's economic development partnership.

I was 26 years old when I first started working for GTECH. Now at 48, I think about how lucky and proud I am to say I work for an international company with Rhode Island roots. As your constituent, I would like you to know that IGT has given me the opportunity to work in a vibrant, ever-changing, challenging work environment. I love walking into the office every day to work with a dedicated workforce, many of whom were born, raised and educated in Rhode Island too. They are my neighbors, friends and colleagues.

I believe that this is a good thing for the state's economy and our long-term fiscal health. Additionally, this agreement will guarantee that thousands of people will have access to good paying employment opportunities right here in RI. I hope that you will send this bill to the House floor with a recommendation for passage.

Respectfully,
*Candace McAloon*

**Candace McAloon**
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