



March 5, 2012

The Honorable Edward J. Kasemeyer  
Budget and Taxation Committee  
Miller Senate Office Building, 3West  
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Senate Bill 661 – Carroll County Gaming - **Support**

Dear Senator Kasemeyer:

SB 661 is designed to permit specified bona fide charitable organizations, after obtaining appropriate permits, to conduct card games, tournaments, or host a “casino night” for the purpose of raising much needed funds in order to continue their valuable work to the community. The Legislative Committee of the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce believes the ability of these organizations to adequately raise funds to meet the needs of the community is essential. This bill merely gives Carroll County community organizations the same ability to raise money as many surrounding counties currently enjoy, such as Baltimore County.

Community organizations, such as Kiwanis, Carroll Hospice and numerous other nonprofit organizations depend on raising funds to continue their incredibly important work. The economy has made conducting such work even more difficult, and having different methods of raising money will increase their ability to meet their mission of helping people.

A prime example of an organization that needs this type of fund-raising is the 14 volunteer Carroll County Fire Departments. These departments provide an invaluable service to the community by providing public safety protection to the citizens, often at great risk to their own safety. In fact, not only do they provide protection to the citizens of Carroll County, but they are often called upon by surrounding counties for support when major events occur in other jurisdictions.

For these reasons the Legislative Committee of the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce asks that you give SB 661 a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael McMullin".

Michael McMullin  
President  
Carroll County Chamber of Commerce

cc: Senator Joseph M. Getty  
Delegate Susan W. Krebs