

January 4, 2022

The Honorable Maria Cantwell  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Commerce, Science, and  
Transportation  
U.S. Senate  
254 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roger Wicker  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Commerce, Science, and  
Transportation  
U.S. Senate  
512 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jacky Rosen  
Chairwoman  
Subcommittee on Tourism, Trade, and Export  
Promotion  
U.S. Senate  
713 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rick Scott  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Tourism, Trade, and Export  
Promotion  
U.S. Senate  
502 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Cantwell, Ranking Member Wicker, Chairwoman Rosen, and Ranking Member Scott,

The American Gaming Association (AGA), the national trade group representing the commercial and tribal U.S. casino industry, which supports 1.8 million jobs nationwide, is proud to support S. 3375, the Omnibus Travel and Tourism Act. As we continue to weather the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, this important legislation would take meaningful steps to bolster U.S. travel and tourism and support our industry's recovery.

Like many in the hospitality sector, gaming was hit particularly hard by the COVID-19 pandemic, which closed America's nearly 1,000 commercial and tribal casino properties and affected approximately 650,000 gaming and resort employees. The Omicron variant reminds us that we have not yet reached the end of the pandemic, and our industry will continue to deal with the associated impacts to travel and tourism, both from domestic and international visitors. The Omnibus Travel and Tourism Act recognizes the importance of travel to our economy by establishing an Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Travel and Tourism and coordinating tourism policy across multiple federal agencies.

The bill will also aid our continued recovery by directing the Department of Commerce to study the effects of COVID-19 on travel and tourism and make policy recommendations, helping us respond to the ongoing challenges and build a more resilient industry. We also support provisions that would establish a TSA pilot program to enhance security and streamline arrivals

for international visitors, making the United States a more globally competitive tourism destination.

We applaud the Senate Commerce Committee for passing S. 3375 with strong bipartisan support. With this legislation, the gaming industry and our partners in the travel and tourism sector can feel more confident as we navigate the ongoing impacts of the pandemic. I urge the Senate to pass the Omnibus Travel and Tourism Act expeditiously to aid our continued recovery.

Sincerely,



William C. Miller  
President & CEO  
American Gaming Association