

# Joint Subcommittee to Study the Feasibility of Establishing the Virginia Gaming Commission -- Written Public Comment Submission Form.

Any written comments provided will be provided to all members of the Joint Subcommittee to Study the Feasibility of Establishing the Virginia Gaming Commission and will become part of the legal public record for the Joint Subcommittee. Please do not share any private information on this form that you would not want shared with the general public. If you have any questions, please contact Ashley Binns, Senior Attorney at [abinns@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:abinns@dls.virginia.gov).

Name

Elizabeth Wilkins

Organization you represent (if any)

Meeting Date for which you are submitting a comment: \*

☐ May 21, 2024

☒ June 17, 2024

☐ August 21, 2024

Written Comments: \*

I'm writing to comment on the subject of cruise ship gambling in Virginia waters. We feel that the issue is one that should concern all coastal Virginia communities. In the words of Frank Wagner (the Princess Cruise Lines lobbyist whom you will hear from today), enabling onboard gambling in Virginia waters will "roll out the welcome mat" for the cruise industry in Virginia. He's correct – it is exactly the financial incentive they are looking for in order to expand their presence in the Chesapeake Bay, and all of Virginia coastal waters. As you study the issue, I would urge you to consider the larger consequences of greatly increased cruise ship traffic in Virginia, in addition to the specific details of gambling onboard these vessels. Communities across the globe are desperately trying to reduce the presence of cruise ships, rather than create more incentives for them. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this with the committee further.

Elizabeth Wilkins  
Yorktown, VA 23690

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Name

Jacques van Montfrans

Organization you represent (if any)

Meeting Date for which you are submitting a comment: \*

☐

May 21, 2024

☒

June 17, 2024

☐

August 21, 2024

Written Comments: \*

I'd like to comment on the cruise ship gambling issue that Mr. Frank Wagner, lobbyist, will present this afternoon. Allowing cruise ship gambling in Commonwealth waters will open the floodgates for this industry. I have several concerns associated with gambling on foreign-registered ships: they do not pay their fair share of U.S. taxes; they are not required to adhere to US labor laws; they will not have the same oversight that land-based gambling facilities require; and they will detract from local businesses by keeping passengers onboard to gamble. Furthermore, the fees the industry will pay the commonwealth for the privilege of gaming will not ameliorate the negative environmental consequences for the entire ecosystem of the Chesapeake Bay. I would like to share the details of my concerns with the committee and ask that you give the citizens concerned about this issue the same opportunity that lobbyist Frank Wagner was given to promote this matter. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Jacques van Montfrans  
Yorktown, VA

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Name

Douglas Holroyd, York County Board of Supervisors

Organization you represent (if any)

York County (acting as an individual Supervisor)

Meeting Date for which you are submitting a comment: \*

☐

May 21, 2024

☒

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☐

August 21, 2024

Written Comments: \*

Joint Subcommittee to Study the Feasibility of Establishing the Virginia Gaming Commission,

Dear Senators and Delegates,

I speak to you on behalf of many of my constituents in York County, Virginia who have opposed Cruise Ships from docking and overwhelming small communities along the Chesapeake such as Yorktown, and the further concern that should the Cruise Ship Industry be successful in establishing gaming casinos in offshore waters, the frequency of visits by these ships, and the flow of passengers to river boat casinos would dramatically increase.

The Cruise ship industry, as you are well aware, have become a nuisance and a pariah to many locations along the Eastern seaboard. As larger and larger cruise ships launch for the traditional Caribbean cruise routes, the smaller, older ships are looking for an alternative. Unfortunately, its these smaller ships with much older technology that present the biggest risk to our pristine waters. Grey water discharges into the Chesapeake is particularly concerning for the fishing and oyster industry, and not to mention the average citizen who wants to enjoy the beaches and waterfront.

We have the Virginia Lottery, we have Casinos in a number of communities, we now have mobile sports wagering. Do we really need an expansion into our offshore waters. Most citizens of this Commonwealth would not agree. I'm speaking to you on their behalf.

Please consider this message as your subcommittee meets today on this issue.

respectfully,  
Supervisor Holroyd,  
York County Virginia.

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