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BALTIMORE CITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE JOINS COALITION Slots Referendum Will Prevent Tax Increases & Fund Education

Baltimore, Maryland – The Baltimore City Chamber of Commerce this week joined the Maryland Chamber of Commerce, Maryland State Teachers Association (MSTA), Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) and the AFL-CIO as part of the For Maryland For Our Future campaign to support passage of the November slots referendum.

“If the referendum fails, it will be a \$700 million hit to the state budget, and that means that the General Assembly will either raise taxes or cut services. That’s why we support the referendum, in order to avoid future tax increases,” stated Baltimore City Chamber Chair Maurice Dixon.

In contrast, Marylanders United to Stop Slots is on record as favoring higher taxes as the budget alternative to slots. On May 22, Hilary Spence, the group’s Treasurer, urged voters to reject slots and, instead, raise taxes or cut public services: “I think people need to tighten their belts or unfortunately raise taxes.” Spence made her policy proposal to raise taxes or cut services at a news conference in Ocean City, Maryland. (WMDT-TV, Thursday, May 22, 2008, <http://www.wmdt.com/topstory/topstory.asp?id=3492>)

The New Baltimore City Chamber is a renowned organization comprised of corporate, medium, small and minority owned companies. The Chamber is devoted to helping Baltimore’s business community grow and develop Baltimore’s economy by facilitating avenues for conducting business and growing partnerships with some of Baltimore’s most well noted companies and best kept secret businesses. For more information about Baltimore City Chamber of Commerce, visit its website, www.baltimorecitychamber.org.

The slots referendum will:

- Dedicate 48.5% to 51% of total annual gross revenues to the Education Trust Fund.
- Produce, by fiscal year 2013, approximately \$660 million in new education funding.
- Re-capture hundreds of millions of dollars that Marylanders spend out of state, helping to prevent future tax increases.
- Prevent further expansion of gaming in Maryland. The so-called “slippery slope” is impossible because the referendum is a Constitutional amendment that prevents any casinos and additional expansion of gaming anywhere in Maryland without a future voter-approved referendum.

For more information on the slots referendum, go to www.ForMaryland.org