



Rotonda Condominium Unit Owners Association
8352 Greensboro Drive, McLean, VA 22102, 703-821-0100

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 350
Fairfax, VA 22035

RE: Fairfax County, VA 2025 Draft Legislative Program

Dear Supervisors:

On behalf of the 3,200 residents of the Rotonda community in the heart of Tysons, we submit the following comments on the draft 2025 Legislative Program, supporting the Ten Community Outcomes of Fairfax County's Strategic Plan.

We endorse the opening statement in the program introduction, which expresses your commitment to "protecting and enriching our quality of life for people, neighborhoods, and diverse communities." As the original residential neighborhood in Tysons, the Rotonda is proud of our community's quality of life and diversity. More than 18 native languages are spoken here, and our evolving demographics now include some 700 school-aged children and their families who call the Rotonda home.

We continue to support the plan to transform Tysons into a vibrant green urban center where people, live, work, and play. Our commitment to creating a thriving, family-friendly Tysons had led us to work cooperatively with Fairfax County and neighboring developers to resolve concerns and to reach consensus on the best paths forward. It is our dedication to the vision of Tysons as a globally attractive and livable community that compels us to urge you to send a strong message to the General Assembly that a casino is not welcome in Tysons or anywhere in Fairfax County.

A casino would run counter to the goal of fostering economic development that strengthens our commercial districts and communities. National studies have shown that casinos do not bring new money to an area; instead, they tend to cannibalize existing businesses, leaving the local economy no better off—and in some cases, worse off. There is little evidence that casinos boost retail growth, and employment in casino economies often grows at a slower rate than in non-casino economies.¹

While a casino may appeal to officials seeking to raise revenue without increasing taxes, such revenues are volatile and tend to decrease over time, with the social costs likely to

¹ Krutz, Jonathan, *Do Casinos Create Economic Development?: A 15-Year National Analysis of Local Retail Sales and Employment Growth*. <https://doi.org/10.18122/td.1939.boisestate>.



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outweigh the benefits.² This decline could ultimately diminish the quality of life for Fairfax County residents.

In 2024, the legislation to allow Fairfax County to become an eligible locality for a casino was held over until 2025 after County residents representing dozens of communities, including the Rotonda, traveled to Richmond to testify in opposition to the bill. In his recent response to retired Congressman Frank Wolf, Chairman McKay affirmed “...*unlike other jurisdictions in the Commonwealth who have requested permission to locate a casino, Fairfax County has never asked for this authority.*”

By including language to the 2025 Legislative Program that explicitly rejects a casino as a tool for economic reinvestment, you will send a clear and decisive message to the General Assembly.

Best regards,

Douglas M. Doolittle
President, Rotonda Condominium
Unit Owner's Association

² “The costs of hosting a casino in a community that previously did not have a casino outweigh the benefits by a factor between 3.9:1 and 6.3:1.” from Grinols, E., *Gambling in America* (Cambridge University Press 2006).