

Public Safety Inspectors - Vote of No Confidence

As Public Safety Inspectors, we are deeply committed to the mission of responsible regulation of casino gambling within the state of Maine. We have accomplished this mission for nearly 20 years and in that time our roles have grown exponentially along with the growth of our two casinos. Despite the significant expansion of gambling within our great state, our current Executive Director Milton Champion has actively demonstrated an eagerness to deregulate casinos in Maine without input from the voting public and with little-to-no guidance to our casino partners on how to conduct business while remaining compliant with gambling rules and statutes.

Milton Champion has made it clear through his actions that he does not respect the oversight role of the Maine Gambling Control Board. Since he started as Executive Director in 2016, the Board has denied many of his proposals for a variety of reasons. Now, rather than subject himself to the checks and balances of the Board's oversight function, Milton Champion is circumventing the Board altogether by making unilateral decisions that completely undermine the Board's ability to oversee gambling matters in Maine. Many of these decisions make very little sense, are based on false data, and have irreparably harmed the Maine Gambling Control Unit's ability to regulate casino gambling (which we are required to do by state statute).

As Public Safety Inspectors and MSEA-SEIU Local 1989 members, we must make it known that Milton Champion has repeatedly shown a lack of respect for our legal rights and processes spelled out in our union contract, has retaliated against us individually and as a group, and has created a deeply dysfunctional and toxic workplace environment. We Public Safety Inspectors have pending grievances within the Gambling Control Unit regarding Champion's refusal to correctly pay us for services rendered, retaliation, and numerous violations of our collective bargaining with the State of Maine. Despite MSEA's attempts to continue bargaining with the Department over Champion's recently enacted changes impacting our schedules and pay, he and his team have refused to meet to continue negotiations. This inaction has eroded trust between employees and the Department and has emboldened Milton Champion to continue the toxic work environment he has created.

Milton Champion's leadership decisions pose a real threat to the Gambling Control Unit's ability to serve the taxpaying public and regulate Maine casinos in a responsible and transparent manner. His efforts to consolidate authority within himself despite knowing he is subject to the oversight of the Board should be a concern to all.

For all of these reasons, I am casting a vote of no confidence in Milton Champion's ability to lead the Maine Gambling Control Unit.

Signed,

Gayle Craig, Hollywood Casino Bangor, 7 years of service

Steven James, Hollywood Casino Bangor, 13 years of service

Edward Bonney, Hollywood Casino Bangor, 17 years of service

Michael Rancourt, Hollywood Casino Bangor, 9 years of service

Nathan Daigle, Oxford Casino, 12 years of service

Nathaniel Bacon, Oxford Casino, 12 years of service

Richard Freese, Oxford Casino, 12 years of service

Joseph Shepherd, Oxford Casino, 12 years of service

Kyle Ellingwood, Oxford Casino, 3 years of service