

*Brian Masse*

Member of Parliament  
(Windsor West)



July 20, 2018

Hon. Bill Blair  
Minister of Border Security and Organized Crime Reduction  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Blair,

I would like to congratulate on your recent Cabinet appointment as the new Minister of Border Security and Organized Crime Reduction. I look forward to working constructively with you as I represent the most significant economic and traffic volume land border in Canada.

I note however that your mandate letter from the Prime Minister is not posted like other appointments. Given the specific mention of Organized Crime in the title of this new Ministry that you will direct I hope this means that your government is reconsidering its position on single event sports wagering, having defeated a Parliamentary vote to send this issue for review at committee and consideration of legislative change.

With this deliberate focus on organized crime, you have an opportunity to correct your government's previous mistake of opposing legalized single event sports wagering. In doing so you would be significantly reducing a major revenue stream funding many of their activities including human trafficking, drug trafficking, racketeering, money laundering and other crimes where violence is commonplace.

The illegal gambling industry in Canada is estimated to be as high as \$40 Billion annually. The federal prohibition on single event sports wagering is a significant driver of this revenue. Removing the prohibition against it and allowing for revenues to flow from the illegal gaming sector into the public coffers is a clear win, win for all levels of government and increases public safety.

Frankly speaking, there is almost nothing you have said on the topic of the legalization of cannabis and its impact on organized crime that doesn't apply equally to legalizing single event sports wagering.

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Moving forward I would appreciate working constructively with you to resolve this issue in Canada. I am sure you are aware the United States has moved forward and many states are either currently offering or in the process providing regulated single event wagering, similar to Europe. Canada has become the exception amongst our peers.

I will look forward to the specific terms of reference for your new role. I wish you all the best in your work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Masse". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent initial "B" and a long, sweeping underline.

Brian Masse M.P.  
Windsor West