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# The \_\_\_\_\_ MICHIGAN GAMING \_\_\_\_\_ Newsletter



## **SPECIAL REPORT**

### **AGA AND AGEM PARTNER TO COMBAT UNREGULATED GAMING MACHINES**

The American Gaming Association (AGA) and the Association of Gaming Equipment Manufacturers (AGEM) announced a partnership to combat unregulated gaming machines throughout the United States. The initiative will provide resources to state and local policymakers, law enforcement, and regulatory agencies to stop the spread of the unregulated machines .

“Stamping out the illegal market that threatens the safety of consumers will always be one of the gaming industry’s highest priorities,” said Bill Miller, President and CEO of the AGA. “We are proud to work with the Association of Gaming Equipment Manufacturers and our fellow industry partners to combat the spread of illegal machines. The AGA is encouraged that policymakers in some states such as Virginia have begun to recognize the dangers of these machines and have taken recent legislative action toward outlawing them. Unfortunately, other jurisdictions where these machines have become pervasive may believe their only recourse is to regulate and tax them. Rewarding bad behavior is not the answer, and we hope our education efforts will make it clear that the only real solution is to stop the spread of these devices.”

The growth of unregulated gaming machines raises many concerns for the gaming industry, including lack of testing, consumer protections, and responsible gaming programs.

“The regulated gaming industry has rarely been more united on a singular issue and now we have a tool to address the misinformation and deception that unregulated machine companies use to confound law enforcement, the courts,

and local citizens,” said Marcus Prater, Executive Director of AGEM. “The spread of these machines represents a serious threat to the overall regulated market that has invested billions in infrastructure while also creating thousands of jobs and substantial tax benefits in the communities they serve. Moreover, unregulated machines prey on confused players who see slot machine symbols and think they’re getting a fair chance when they absolutely are not.”

More than 20 professional gaming organizations have joined the AGA and AGEM’s efforts in stopping the spread of unregulated gaming. Notably, the National Indian Gaming Association, the North American Association of State and Provincial Lotteries, the International Center for Responsible Gaming, the National Council on Problem Gambling, state casino and tribal associations, and the leading gaming equipment test labs have supported the initiative.

The AGA is a national trade group representing the United States casino industry with a mission to achieve sound policies and regulations for modern gaming and economic contributions. The AGA includes members from commercial and tribal casino operators, gaming suppliers, and other affiliated entities.

AGEM is a non-profit international technology trade association representing manufacturers and suppliers of gaming devices and services. AGEM’s mission is to further the interests of gaming equipment suppliers and to create benefits for every company in the organization.