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**STATEMENT FROM NEW YORK STATE GAMING COMMISSION ACTING EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR ROBERT WILLIAMS REGARDING UPSTATE THEATER COALITION**

“We are in full agreement with the Upstate Theater Coalition regarding the importance of our live entertainment venues. A major goal of the Upstate New York Gaming and Economic Development Act is to enhance and grow New York’s tourism attractions, including the state’s performing arts venues and arenas. That’s why the siting criteria in the Act declares that prospective casinos should ‘establish a fair and reasonable partnership with live entertainment venues’ in the local market. We will work with the coalition to address all of its concerns regarding language in the RFP that ensures that no casino operator can successfully bid for a New York casino license unless it has a signed partnership agreement with live entertainment venues in the local market in consultation with the Upstate Theater Coalition. We believe any new gaming resorts must and will provide a major boost for our existing and historic live entertainment venues.”

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