# Bally's Corporation Shareholders Reject Smoke-Free Policy Investigation Proposal



On Thursday, Bally’s Corporation shareholders dismissed a proposal to investigate the potential savings from implementing smoke-free policies at its total properties, including the two Bally's casinos in Rhode Island. This decision marks a continuation of the efforts to ban smoking at Bally’s Twin River Lincoln Casino and Bally’s Tiverton Casino, which are exempt from Rhode Island's 2005 indoor smoking ban.

State Representative Teresa A. Tanzi, the Laborers’ International Union of North America Local 711, and General Treasurer James A. Diossa supported the smoke-free study proposal during the shareholder meeting. Despite Diossa’s backing, the Bally’s board opposed the proposal, deeming it unwarranted and unreasonable, highlighting the importance of complying with local smoking laws for competitive reasons and existing policies benefiting employees preferring a smoke-free environment.

Trinity Health and the American Nonsmokers’ Rights Foundation urged the board to consider the potential business risks of indoor smoking, citing increased health insurance premiums, maintenance costs, and a potential decrease in visitor numbers. However, the measure was defeated, and no votes against the proposal were recorded.

Representative Tanzi plans to reintroduce a bill to repeal the smoking exemption for the two casinos and allocate $1 million for informing patrons about the smoke-free policy. This legislation has faced opposition from Senate President Dominick J. Ruggerio, citing revenue concerns. Advocates argue casinos would not lose revenue and emphasize protecting casino workers from secondhand smoke.