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## Responsible Gaming: A Safer Place to Play and Work



**[Las Vegas, NV] September 26, 2016:** Responsible Gaming is based on the principle to ensure a fair and safe gaming experience that protects players from the adverse consequences of gaming and gambling. We believe this should also include protecting the health and well-being of vulnerable people – players and employees – from the known health hazards of secondhand smoke.

The gaming industry has worked hard to become a mainstream employer and entertainment destination in communities across the U.S. Casinos have been recognized for many positives: job creation, responsible gaming initiatives and sustainability. Alongside these pillars of the gaming industry comes the responsibility for providing a safe work environment for workers and patrons. Secondhand smoke has been called the “black eye” of the gaming industry.

*“Secondhand smoke is more than a nuisance – it is a serious health hazard and a top preventable cause of acute and chronic diseases, as well as early death for people working in the gaming hospitality sector. HVAC systems, smoking sections, and smoking rooms do not address the health risks,”* said Cynthia Hallett, President and CEO of the American Nonsmokers Rights Foundation.

Casino host communities deserve to have a healthy workforce in their region and should expect casinos to be smokefree indoors just like any other workplace or public place. The only way to protect people from second-hand smoke is with a smokefree environment because there is no safe level of exposure. No employee should have to choose between their health and their paycheck. Patrons and players should also be protected from the adverse health consequences associated with exposure to secondhand smoke. Today, there are more than 800 smokefree casinos and other gaming sector venues. To learn more, visit G2E booth 4014.

