

MEASURE: HB 3256  
EXHIBIT: 29  
H BUSINESS & LABOR  
DATE: 3-20-2013 PAGES: 2  
SUBMITTED BY: Ron Schmidt



March 20, 2013

The House Committee on Business and Labor  
Attn: Representative Margaret Doherty, Chair  
Representatives Brent Barton & Bill Kennemer, Vice-Chairs  
Representatives Shemia Fagan, Tim Freeman, Paul Holvey, Greg Matthews, Kim Thatcher, Jim Thompson,  
Jim Weidner, and Brad Witt  
Oregon State Capital  
900 Court Street NE  
Room 453  
Salem, OR 97301

HB 3256

Good Morning. I am Ron Schmidt and I am a 26 year resident of Hayden Island and of Jantzen Beach Moorage which is the homeowners group of 177 families next door - directly adjacent- to the casino operations referred to as Lottery Row. I am an active member of the North Portland Neighborhood Chairs Network and I am the Chair of the City of Portland authorized neighborhood association, the Hayden Island Neighborhood Network, known as HINooN.

HINooN, on behalf of the citizens in North Portland, supports HB 2008 and urge you to pass it. The North Portland Neighborhood Chairs Network representing over 40,000 residents in North Portland supports us in this effort.

Our community of over two thousand residents and hundreds of businesses has been sorely affected by a perfect storm of outside influences and events. Instead of being a beautiful and welcoming entry into the City of Portland and the great State of Oregon, we have been reduced to the level of a crime filled border town.

We have seen the out of state profiteers come into our neighborhood and take our only community retail core and turn it into a life support system for the lottery machines that generate the profits some of which are sent out of the state.

We have seen the OR Liquor Control Commission and the Oregon Lottery do little with the enforcement tools they currently have until the last few months given the publicity and the effort by the Portland Police.

We have seen the overall crime go down on our island yet dramatically escalate within one thousand feet of

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Lottery Row. While the casino owners once argued cause and effect, the Portland Police and North Precinct Commander Mike Leloff are certain about the attraction, Lottery Row. Crimes recently associated with Lottery Row include a gun fight with serious injuries and a homicide.

We have had these profiteers appear at our neighborhood association meetings with high profile attorneys and political and PR experts all funded by our lottery dollars. You will likely hear from these hired guns today. You will hear this morning from residents who took time from their jobs and their lives to testify. You will not hear from the thousands of residents who need your help but who cannot take the time from their jobs to make the journey here.

In our negotiations with the Lottery Row bar owners, we and the Portland Police actively tried to reach an agreement with the owner of the largest number of bars to begin with. The negotiations got sincere only when it appeared that the State was going to make changes to the rules in our favor and the owner left word that he was in agreement with the GNA. The rules turned out in his favor and, within days, he left a message to disregard the first message!

It seems that Good Neighbor Agreements may not be taken sincerely but can be used as a ploy in negotiations by licensees. Some argue that HB3256 may cause some not to enter into agreements. We feel that there is little practical value in them without the changes advocated by HB3256 as the licensee can enter into them then abandon them at will.

We urge you to pass HB3256.

Sincerely,



Ronald Schmidt, Chair HINooN

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