

Hello Representatives, staff, & Zoe. As y'all are aware of, your Committee will be hearing HB 3518 concerning social gaming & poker clubs this coming Wednesday (May 15th) at 3pm in HR 50. You'll also be allowing public comment on this topic. As much as I'd love to be there showing my support for these poker clubs, I have another commitment that day & might miss this opportunity. So I wanted to write you this email as my opportunity to testify on behalf of my rights to play poker & the rights of these establishments to continue as a FOR PROFIT business.

Now I understand that HB 3518 is not intended to purposely shut down these businesses BUT if they are forced to become nonprofit businesses, the inevitable WILL happen & these businesses WILL shut down. I wrote each of you last week while HB 3518 was still being called LC 2938 & shared my concerns on this matter, along with the fact of my desire to open one of these establishments as well. So since then I've been trying to come up with a compromise/mutual agreement concept & I'd like to list that here for you now:

- 1) Keep them as a for profit businesses
- 2) Require them to report to DOJ quarterly...anything goes wrong then that location only (not every location) gets fined, put on probation, shut down etc
- 3) Require EVERY location to be in its own building (no more running out of the back of existing bars IE: like One Good Hand)
- 4) Require EVERY location to have a security guard after "X" hour IE: 7pm until they're closed EACH day
- 5) Still allow the "door fee" charge of \$10 (quite a few night clubs do this so why not let poker clubs do it) & selling of refreshments (maybe apparel with the club's logo too) as the way for the owners to make money
- 6) NO alcohol sales
- 7) NO video poker, lottery, keno, etc sales
- 8) Enforce a business tax on each establishment
- 9) Keep the dealers as volunteers (not paid employees) but give the owners some sort of documents, forms, etc to fill out & have EVERY dealer sign before they leave --- keeping track of what they made in tips & then Oregon can tax the tips (they tax the tips for waiters/waitresses so why not dealers too)
- 10) Put a minimum & maximum cap on the "buy-ins"/"entry fees" IE:Free-\$100 & no "prize pool" (total amount of winnings to be divided among "X" number of "winners" IE: Top 8 players) can be over "X" amount IE: \$10,000)
- 11) Any 1 player that wins over \$600 gets a 1099 & Oregon taxes it (just like anything else)

12) Still follow the option where incorporated cities IE: Sandy has to approve & create a city ordinance that states ALL the laws Oregon requires &/or any additional laws that specific city wants added ---- unincorporated cities IE: Boring would be required to abide by the County's ordinance

Well, that's my concept in a nutshell for you. Please take it into consideration & even doctor it up in areas that you see fit & then let me know what your opinion, feedback, etc might be on this. I'm just asking for any efforts in a middle ground type of compromise where these establishments can remain open, the players can enjoy the sport, & the business owners can earn a living to provide for their families.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my input & I look forward to hearing from y'all very soon on the outcome. Enjoy your weekend!!

Thanks,

Joseph Lowe

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