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**WRITTEN TESTIMONY: Opposition to House Bill 2549**

Honorable Members of the Oregon House Business and Labor Committee:

My name is Michael Grimes, and I serve as executive director of the Stop Daily Fantasy Gambling coalition, a national 501(c)4 nonprofit organization dedicated to stopping the proliferation of illegal gambling like daily fantasy sports gambling. I appreciate the opportunity to write you today in opposition to House Bill 2549, which is being considered in the House Business and Labor Committee. Many states across the nation are struggling with the question of whether and how to allow online daily fantasy sports gambling amid an aggressive legislative push by the big companies that run these games of chance.

I understand that the Oregon legislature is considering HB 2549 to require registration of “fantasy contest operators” with the Oregon State Lottery Commission and allowing that agency to promulgate rules to regulate “fantasy contests.” Stop Daily Fantasy Gambling is adamantly opposed to allowing online daily fantasy gambling to be legitimized in the manner prescribed by HB 2549. Daily fantasy sports gambling is operated online by a relatively new, largely unregulated corporate industry that has been plagued by scandal in many other states. These gambling events involve wagers by players on events, with winners taking the proceeds from the losers after the website operators have taken a cut for profit. Despite clearly indicating the components describing a form of gambling, HB 2549 never uses the terms “contest of chance,” “gambling” or “wager” once in the more than one thousand words of text in the bill.

Major gambling industry companies like FanDuel and DraftKings are trying to persuade legislators to give them special treatment, allowing them to circumvent the gambling laws of the state. But existing Oregon state law defines these terms already in statute (ORS 167.117), so perhaps a better approach would be to define and regulate these activities in a manner similar to the way those other forms of gambling are already treated. Until then, the SDFG coalition will remain opposed to HB 2549.

Thank you for your time and attention, and feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Regards,

Michael Grimes  
Executive Director, Stop Daily Fantasy Gambling