

Thank you for taking the time to read all email regarding poker in Oregon. For many people poker is a way of life. Gone are the shady underground days and back rooms that kept a wonderful game in the shadows. It is without question a game of skill and patience that somehow was pushed into the spotlight by TV and celebrity personalities.

You will not find the same with casino games of chance like slots, blackjack, craps, roulette, etc..and never will. Players understand the difference in gambling and true gamesmanship. Like chess, bass fishing, racing etc.. there are tournaments to determine the best players with trophies and prizes. (Yes, even in fishing tourneys you have to get a little lucky) but it is the skilled player over the long haul that endures.. We all need to re consider the ways we look at poker in our laws and make it work for all of us not special interests..We need to get rid of the perceptions that plague the thought processes of those who ultimately drive the game back underground to the shady areas they perceive the game to be. Other states have already done this and regulate it..The people who want to ultimately control it ( casinos, criminals etc) want it to be criminalized everywhere and they are the places that can take advantage of the mass amount of players that the game has now attracted.

Allowing these special interests to take advantage of the players is a bigger crime and it drives the players away and back to private hidden games. These legitimate players from all walks of life have worked hard to bring it to the surface following the outdated laws the best they can to show that it is a legitimate viable business and good for our economy in taxes and jobs. Anything that takes that away, is basically making a prohibition event, only now the object, that being poker is not unhealthy or dangerous to anyone. Please consider who is creating the problems... it isn't the players and the people who want to facilitate them the way the players want to be facilitated....

Warm regards

Casual player

Patrick Rhea