

As all politicians are well aware of by now, in this country we are currently experiencing a crisis of confidence by the voting public that their views are truly being represented by their elected representatives. Quite to the contrary, I'd venture to say that a majority of your constituents feel that their voices have been completely drowned out by increasingly pervasive and voluminous corporate lobbying money. Whether red or blue, the idea of "draining the swamp" resounds.

Today (on albeit the smallest of stages) you members are presented with an opportunity to prove that cynicism wrong. You are being asked to change wording to limit social gaming to only the confines of churches and religious organizations. But, as on any pending legislation, you should be asking yourself "Why? Who does this benefit? Who does it harm? My voters or a corporation working in its own self-interest?". The answer could hardly be more obvious regarding HR2190. Have any of you received any complaints from your constituents regarding the operation of social gaming clubs and the desire that they be shut down? Conversely, how many of you have heard from constituents that they would like to continue to enjoy either the leisure or livelihood that these clubs provide them?

I have watched Pat Dooris' piece on KGW. I have read Nigel Jacquiss' piece in Willamette Week. In these pieces, the only voice against the operation of the social gaming clubs is delivered not-so-coincidentally by either employees or lawyers for La Center's existing casinos or Ridgefield's new Ilani.

If these corporate interests were in Oregon, and paying taxes here to benefit our economy I could understand you having some shred of conflict. But they are not and they do not.

I'm sure this committee faces difficult choices each day wherein your decisions may help certain Oregonians while hurting others. I honestly don't envy your job. However, rejecting HR2190 will be your easiest decision all day as shooting this down hurts no Oregonians while helping maintain the livelihoods and pastimes of many of your constituents. Take a stand on behalf of those constituents and a stand against out-of-state corporate lobbyists. Vote no on HR2190.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Daniel Pasko
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