



OREGON COUNCIL
ON PROBLEM GAMBLING

April 3, 2017

The Honorable Paul Holvey, Chair
House Committee on Business and Labor
Oregon Legislative Assembly

RE: HB 2971 Race Meet Licensee 50 Video Lottery Terminals

The Oregon Council on Problem Gambling, an affiliate of the National Council on Problem Gambling, is seriously concerned about the five-fold increase of Oregon Lottery Video Terminals (VLTs) at Portland Meadows, plus other potential future Race Meet Licensees, without adequate study of the potential negative impacts on the welfare of Oregonians.

There is also concern that increasing the number of VLTs at Portland Meadows to 50, combined with their advertised 150 plus Class II video machines, card room, simulcast horse racing, all other Oregon Lottery produces, and occasional live racing should classify it as a casino. This is not consistent with the Oregon Constitution, Article XV, § 4(10) that prohibits the Legislative Assembly from authorizing non-tribal casinos and calls for the Legislative Assembly to prohibit such casinos from operating in the State.

The Council understands that there is no clear and precise definition of what constitutes a non-tribal casino in State law; nonetheless, in the case of *Ecumenical Ministries v. Oregon State Lottery Commission*, 318 Or 551, 871 P2d 106 (1994) the Supreme Court concluded that the “voters intended to prohibit the operation of establishments whose dominant use or dominant purpose, or both, is for gambling.”

With this in mind, the Council is seriously concerned that, without sound research on the potential impact of this bill, its passage could likely create negative consequences for Oregonians.

Respectfully,

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