
From: Donna Follett <mustangd2@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 4, 2017 7:50 PM
To: sen.ChuckRiley@state.or.us; Sen DeBoer; SGGGA Exhibits
Subject: Fw: HB 2190

My name is Donna Follett, I live in Sheridan and I am writing to you today because I am asking that you vote no on the above mentioned bill.

I am single, female, almost retirement age and poker is my form of entertainment. I love to play tournaments a couple times a month, \$40 or \$50 buy in and it is usually several hours of entertainment and socialization for me in my otherwise 6 days a week work schedule. None of the poker clubs I frequent are "gambling" facilities, they are merely a place for poker players gather to pit their skills against one another and have fun. There is no profit in the game of poker itself for any of the facilities I play at, they make their money on the daily membership fee and food and drinks served there.

Poker rooms provide a safe place for players to come together to compete and socialize. Many groups which provide safe spaces for senior citizens and under-served populations (Elks Clubs, Country Clubs, etc..) provide weekly poker games to encourage socialization, cognitive thinking, and community involvement.

Casinos and professional charitable organizations are the driving force behind this bill, not because it is what is best for social gaming / poker and Oregon, but because it eliminates the competition. It is particularly upsetting to me that the casinos in Washington state have so much influence with our law makers.

Poker is not like any other casino games where the odds favor the house, all casinos take what is called a "rake" out of each pot to cover the cost of paying the dealers and floor personnel because there is no profit from the game itself for them. They want the poker players there hoping when they are done with poker they will play the slots or other table games where the odds are in their favor and where they really make the money.

I appreciate you taking the time to read this letter and hope it helps you make an informed decision when voting on this bill.

Sincerely

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