
From: Albert Smith <acsmith@bendcable.com>
Sent: Monday, May 8, 2017 12:01 PM
To: SGGA Exhibits
Subject: HB2190 constituent input

Dear Senators,

I am writing this letter in regard to HB 2190. I encourage you to vote “No” on HB2190 for the following reasons:

- A. Organized poker tournaments in safe secure setting offers many opportunities for social interactions between people from all types of backgrounds. I have personally met many people that I would not have otherwise chanced socializing with. Through these experiences I have developed a better appreciation and understanding of many whom I now call friends. When you get older it is personally rewarding to meet and socialize with others in adult settings.
- B. In established well managed poker rooms such as the Bend Poker Room, Bend Oregon, a player is given the opportunity the choose the price level of the poker tournament they desire to play in. In tournament play you only chance losing the amount of the buy-in with an optional re-buy. Usually \$10.00 to \$40.00. This minimizes potential high loses. It is also noted that there is also a once a month optional tournament with up to \$200.00 buy-in.
- C. Many home games do not have tournament game opportunities, are not well supervised, may be subject one to higher loses, and often subject players to ill feelings toward one and another. I don't experience this in established poker rooms and I feel more secure.
- D. If established poker rooms are not allowed in Central Oregon; players like me are limited to driving 120 miles to an Indian Casino that has established poker tournaments, or leaving the State for better poker recreational opportunities. This means higher costs, greater personal risk because of long drives, hotel costs, and higher casino poker room and table fees.

Personal notes:

In established poker rooms they often offer non-tournament open table games. In my opinion these are the games that should be more closely regulated. They usually offer unlimited betting amounts and can lead to gambling problems. I personally avoid them. I am an advocate of not allowing unlimited betting non-tournament games. I believe these games should have betting limits. If you desire more input on this issue please contact me or visit a poker room that offers such games.

There may be some State officials that believe established poker rooms games cause loss of income from lottery or State supported slot machines. If this is the case the State should consider a a up-front tax on poker room gaming proceeds. Example: A 5-10% up front tax on the buy-in amounts on both the tournaments and live table games. This would be collected by the poker rooms up front, provided to the State on determined bases, and would insure State taxes are collected on all poker winnings. If this were to happen there would be no further need for State taxes on the poker winnings, because they would already be collected. Is this a feasible proposition? Yes, I believe it is. A usual tournament has from 30 to 110 players. A \$5.00 tax would mean \$150.00 to possible \$550.00 per tournament per night. Possible tax income from live games would be estimated to be \$100.00 to \$200.00 per table or more per night, (usually two to three or more active tables per night). Multiply these figures by 30 days per month and the numbers of potential sites in Oregon, the monthly tax revenue could be very impressive. For those who would be against such a player tax, just tell them not to play.

Last but not least you should know that it is evident that playing poker is a way to help some strengthen their mental capabilities, enjoy a fuller life, and be socially entertained.

Please vote "No" on HB2190, and direct your efforts toward more meaningful endeavors.

Respectfully,

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