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**From:** David Goldberg <influx6499@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 10, 2017 12:36 PM  
**To:** SGGA Exhibits  
**Subject:** HB2190

I am writing to offer testimony on HB 2190 which will be before your committee next week. Unfortunately I will be unable to testify in person. I am a retired healthcare executive and an Oregon City resident. For the past many years I have played Texas Holdem poker at several Portland area social gaming clubs. These establishments offer a safe, controlled venue for poker players. Yesterday I played in a tournament (with 88 other players) with the most diverse group of Oregonians - 80 year old men and women, young men in their twenties etc. The present social gaming regulations enable individuals to play poker, a game of skill and luck, to play in a safe, regulated environment. As far as I know there have been few problems with the existing law. HB 2190 will close the social gaming venues and will drive poker games underground again. This will add to the danger and effectively make the hundreds of Oregonians have the choice of participating in illegal gambling or driving to Indian casinos miles from home.

The benefits of the current situation are many:

1. I can play poker legally close to my home
2. The games are controlled with professional neutral dealers who are compensated by tips from players
3. Any disputes (and there are few) are quickly settled by a manager
4. There is food and drink available
5. If I need an escort to get to my car at night, one is there
6. The house makes no money on the game other than a modest daily door fee

If HB 2190 becomes law, my options are:

1. I can play in the many private illegal games that will return
2. There is no control on the quality of dealers or the management of the games
3. Home games are vulnerable to theft, robbery and crime
4. I will be forced to travel many miles either to Spirit Mountain where they take a large amount of money from each pot (a rake) or to La Center, Washington

I do not know what problem is being addressed by HB 2190. Indeed there are a number of issues that can be improved upon with the present situation - the issue of whether volunteer dealers are indeed employees who deserve protection, whether the clubs can retain monies from games for rewards (e.e. high hands etc.) but the present situations basically sound and work for Oregonians.

I believe the motivation behind this proposed new law is coming from casino operators who want a monopoly on gaming.

I strongly urge you to vote no and to protect my right to play poker in a safe legal venue close to my home

Thank you

David Goldberg