Testimony in Support of HB 2190
Oregon Senate Committee on Government \& Accountability
May 10, 2017

Good afternoon Chairman Riley, committee and staff, my name is John Bockmier and । am here to speak in support of HB 2190.

I am here today on behalf of my clients, the card rooms in La Center, Washington.
In May of 2013, I testified on HB 3518 before the House Rules Committee. HB 3518 was another bill which was designed to return social gaming back to a truly social and legal environment. During my testimony I spoke to the multitude of problems the social gaming industry was creating in Oregon.

Four years later, my predictions have obviously come true. The social gaming industry continues to grow and operate illegally.

This is not an unfounded claim from an "out of state" competitor. This assertion has been confirmed numerous times by a host of regulatory agencies.

In 2010, the Oregon Department of Justice issued a legal opinion on social gaming. The conclusion of that opinion states,"Private businesses may not derive any income from the game, including charging cover or extracting any money directly from the participants."

In 2015, The Oregon Department of Labor and Industries ruled that volunteer dealers were in fact employees. Numerous dealers have filed complaints and BOLI ruled in their favor. The employees were paid off with cash settlements by the social card rooms.

And finally, in 2016 the City of Portland sent a letter to all social gaming licensees clearly stating the compliance requirements for all card rooms based on the recent BOLI rulings. Many of the social gaming clubs completely ignored that directive. The City of Portland then conducted an undercover investigation of three different social gaming clubs.

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They sent in undercover agents nine different times and every single time the social gaming card rooms were found to be in violation. The list of violations includes, tipping, door fees and illegal gambling.

The current state of the social gaming poker industry in Oregon is as follows:

- It is an all cash business with absolutely no internal controls in place.
- There are no accounting requirements, no auditing requirements and no regulatory agency dedicated to enforcement.
- Dealer tips are divided up in a back room with only management present and quietly dispersed the following day.
- The games are not being conducted in a fair and balanced manner. The house commonly inserts skilled players in to active games and provides a bank roll for them to play with.

All of these factors seriously diminish the integrity of the game. This is a critical concern for my clients who have worked for thirty years to run a legal and professional gaming business where the quality and honesty of the game is not in question.

The opponents of HB 2190 have been very vocal with their push back. In closing, I would like to address a few of their claims.

HB 2190 does not eliminate jobs. Instead, it protects workers rights by terminating the absurd charade of the volunteer dealers and ensuring that employees are protected and receiving all of their appropriate benefits.

HB 2190 does not force poker to underground venues like the opponents would suggest. Poker will still be available for everyone to play. It will simply be relocated to state licensed non-profit locations where licensed gaming is already being conducted. The poker industry will finally be regulated by an experienced state agency that has been policing gaming for many years, the Oregon Department of Justice.

In closing, my clients are not trying to eliminate the competition. Our poker room has a total of five poker tables and the winner of a recent poker tournament took home $\$ 435$. Portland Meadows poker room has twenty-two tables and just concluded a poker tournament with a guaranteed $\$ 50,000$ cash prize pool. What my clients are fighting for is to protect the industries' integrity and their three decades of work they have put in to ensuring that the entire industry in the Pacific Northwest is run legally and professionally.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to speak to you this afternoon. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

## PORTLAND

## : PORER:

## CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES II

\$20,000 GUARANTEED
MARCH 3rd 2017
FRIDAY - \$90 BUY-IN
Hixumul
(1) Live Re-buy 12k Starting Stack / 25min Levels \$60 Add-on @ break 10k chips Start Time: 7pm - Late Reg. Level 6
Location: FInal Table Poker Club $\$ 30,000$ GUARANTEED MARCH 10 ${ }^{\text {th }} 2017$

FRIDAY - \$100 BUY-IN Fininu
(1) Live Re-buy puinuil 12k Starting Stack / 25min Levels \$60 Add-on @ break 10k Chips Start Time: 7pm - Late Reg. Level 6 Location: Final Table Poker Club

## \$20,000 GUARANTEED

MARCH 4 ${ }^{\text {th }} 2017$
SATURDAY - \$90 BUY-IN
 \$60 Add-on @ break 10k Chips Start Time: 12pm - Late Reg. 3:35pm
Location: Portland Meadows Poker $\$ 30,000$ GUARANTEED

MARCH 11th 2017
SATURDAY - \$100 BUY-IN
 w/Re-Entry
12k Starting Stack / 30min Levels \$60 Add-on @ break 10k Chips Start Time: 12pm - Late Reg. 3:35pm
Location: Portland Meadows Poker

EARN POINTS FOR EACH CASH OVER ALL 4 EVENTS: PLAYER WITH MOST POINTS WINS CHAMPIONSHIP TROPHY.

# Series Locations 

Portland Meadows Poker 1001 N. Schmeer Rd.
Portland, OR 97217

Final Table Poker Club 2620 SE 122 ${ }^{\text {nd }}$ Ave.
Portland, OR 97236





