

Testimony            Jack Elder  
HB 2190             House Interim Committee on Business and Labor  
Hearing Rm         C

Good afternoon Chairman Riley, members of the committee and staff.

My name is Jack Elder I am President of the Oregon Sports Action a 501 (c) 3 non profit dedicated to the development of Olympic sport in Oregon with offices in Beaverton.

I am speaking in favor of House Bill 2190 today.

Oregon Sports Action has held a Bingo license issued by the Oregon Department of Justice for 27 years. In that time we have made and donated almost two million dollars to a variety of Oregon sport associations. We currently host 15 sport non profits at our Oregon Sports Offices in Beaverton including the Oregon Sports Hall of Fame and Museum. Without Bingo and Charitable Gaming none of this would have been possible.

Which brings us to HB 2190

The proposal to add Texas Hold'em to Charitable Gaming is a very rational and welcome effort to help non profits in fund raising and to rein in the current unsustainable, if not outright illegal, operating models of Texas Hold'em gaming held in de facto card rooms.

Our experience in bingo is based on the cooperative arrangement of Bingo licensees and oversight from the Charitable Gaming Division of the Oregon Department of Justice.

We operate under clear bright lines established by the department which include inventory control, daily and quarterly reporting and annual renewal of licenses, expense control and requirements of donations to our dedicated purposes in addition to maintaining our status as a non profit serving the community. Our books are open to the public and I believe that we would see a public benefit if Texas Hold'em was added as a charitable fundraising activity in addition to Bingo.

When we first started playing Bingo there were over 100 Class A licensees in the State, now we are down to 15. This reduction in licensees is directly related to the expansion of the State of Oregon lottery businesses and tribal gaming. We believe that Bingo will continue in this much reduced footprint well into the future. We also believe and encourage this committee and the Legislature to do with Texas Hold'em what has been done with Bingo, in the late 1980's, when the Charitable Activities Bingo Division was created in the Oregon Department of Justice and questionable operations and practices were eliminated.

Passage of HB 2190 may well pave the way to long term support of community activities with new avenues of fund raising from Charitable Texas Hold'em.

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