
From: Carla Gutcher <ontariopokerroom@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2017 3:39 PM
To: SGGA Exhibits
Subject: Vote No on SB2190

This is our email. Vote NO ON SB2190

Dear Senators,

The purpose of this letter is to give the senate members an accurate example of our business and how it operates under current law pertaining to Poker and Social Gaming. To my knowledge the existing law has been in effect since 1974 and worked very well. We are small business owners located in Ontario, Oregon. I would like you to vote NO in the strongest possible terms on bill SB 2190 Social Gaming changes.

Background:

My wife and I own a small mom and pop poker room and Social Club that serves Eastern Oregon and the lower Treasure Valley of Idaho. We have worked diligently to provide a safe, comfortable, and pleasant place to play poker and other games in a social setting that was missing from the city of Ontario. In less than a year we have built a 400 person customer base and had a positive influence on the City of Ontario while providing this service. We have helped numerous other small businesses along the way by bringing our customers into the city.

We have had many challenges along the way to building our business and have complied with every legal requirement that the current state law demands. The current law is not vague, and is successful in regulating poker and social gaming. While reading some of the concerns listed by the House committee I can assure you that we are in compliance in every way. For example, we are in compliance for all of the following issues:

- We pay local, state, and federal income taxes and license fees
- We have security systems in place and have had No problems or crime incidences in our business.
- All games played are player dealt and no rake is taken by the house. There is a 100% payback to the players.
- Legal poker attracts upstanding citizens of all walks of life including doctors, lawyers, law enforcement, ranching, farming, contractors, and numerous others. It brings in a tremendous diversity of people who like to play games. NOT criminals.

As you can see, legal poker and social gaming has a positive effect on a community. If you change the law by passing this bill you will PROMOTE the very bad issues you will not want to have happen. Illegal poker houses do not:

- Pay taxes
- They attract crime because illegal operations are by definition places criminals will go
- Will take a rake at the expense of the players
- Not help the economy by bringing in customers who patronize other legal businesses

I know these assertions to be fact because many of my customers live in Idaho. There is no legal poker in Idaho. My customers from there are playing in Ontario because it is legal, safe, and an social atmosphere free from worry about crime.

Economics/Detrimental Effects:

My wife and I have put all our resources into our small business. If the bill passes it will effectively bankrupt us. This fact is plain and simple. In addition, the trickle down affect will impact the numerous other small businesses and vendors that we do business with. This is a fact.

In conclusion, please vote NO on SB 2190. It will have only negative effects on small business and personal livelihoods.

Thank You.

Sincerely,

Jon and Carla Gutcher

Ontario Poker Room and Social Club



City of Ontario
Office of the Mayor
444 SW 4th Street
Ontario, OR 97914
Voice (541)889-7684
Fax (541)889-7121
dnavont@msn.com

May 5, 2017

Senator Chuck Riley, Chair
Senate General Government & Accountability Committee
Via email: Sen.chuckriley@oregonlegislature.gov

Senator Riley:

With regard to HB2910, which now sits in the Senate, I, as Mayor, with unanimous consensus of the Ontario City Council, strongly urge you to NOT move forward with this Bill. For Ontario, social gaming is good for our community as it brings the games out of the back rooms and cellars, into the daylight, with players having nice places to gather for socializing and fun in a safe atmosphere.

Ontario is located at least three hours away from the nearest casino, and the local religious and non-profit organizations in our area are not able to meet the everyday needs of its citizens who want to sit down and play a friendly game of Texas Hold 'Em, Hearts, or a rousing game of darts.

In 2016, the City Council restructured an existing ordinance, establishing the first "Ontario Poker Room and Social Club". The establishment opened its doors, and the Ontario community is better for it.

Owners Jon and Carla Gutcher, not only run a safe location for folks to socialize, but they have also been involved in the efforts to "revitalize" the downtown corridor, which has brought new energy into our fair city. To date, there have been zero issues, problems, or complaints related to this business, and truly, only positive things have been noted.

The question posed is this: Why try to fix something that is not broken?

Again, we ask that you please deny the Bill to close commercial gaming, which is now regulated and monitored. Such a cessation will only drive it back underground – a place local and state agencies are unable to reach.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ronald Verini", is written over a large, light blue circular scribble.

Ronald Verini, Mayor
City of Ontario



City of Ontario
Office of the Mayor
444 SW 4th Street
Ontario, OR 97914
Voice (541)889-7684
Fax (541)889-7121
dnavont@msn.com

May 5, 2017

Senator Ted Ferrioli
Senate Republican Leader, District 30
Via email: Sen.tedferrioli@state.or.us

Senator Ferrioli:

The city is of the understanding that HB2910 has reached the Senate side. To that end, the below letter was sent to each member of the Senate General Government & Accountability Committee today.

With regard to HB2910, which now sits in the Senate, I, as Mayor, with unanimous consensus of the Ontario City Council, strongly urge you to NOT move forward with this Bill. For Ontario, social gaming is good for our community as it brings the games out of the back rooms and cellars, into the daylight, with players having nice places to gather for socializing and fun in a safe atmosphere.

Ontario is located at least three hours away from the nearest casino, and the local religious and non-profit organizations in our area are not able to meet the everyday needs of its citizens who want to sit down and play a friendly game of Texas Hold 'Em, Hearts, or a rousing game of darts.

In 2016, the City Council restructured an existing ordinance, establishing the first "Ontario Poker Room and Social Club". The establishment opened its doors, and the Ontario community is better for it.

Owners Jon and Carla Gutcher, not only run a safe location for folks to socialize, but they have also been involved in the efforts to "revitalize" the downtown corridor, which has brought new energy into our fair city. To date, there have been zero issues, problems, or complaints related to this business, and truly, only positive things have been noted.

The question posed is this: Why try to fix something that is not broken?

Again, we ask that you please deny the Bill to close commercial gaming, which is now regulated and monitored. Such a cessation will only drive it back underground – a place local and state agencies are unable to reach.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ronald Verini", written over a large, loopy blue scribble.

Ronald Verini, Mayor
City of Ontario

Like 12 Share: Tweet

-
-
-
-



**Ontario Poker Room
&
Social Club**



This month we would like to introduce you to Jon and Carla Gutcher, owners of the [Ontario Poker Room and Social Club](#). Their unique business was the first of its kind in this area, and they've worked hard to create an environment that's fun, relaxed and welcoming to poker players and gamers alike.

Located in Ontario, Oregon, the birth of Ontario Poker Room and

Social Club came from the culmination of a combination of several factors. Jon and Carla have always loved playing poker. They wanted to build a business of their own that would "keep them busy" as they got closer to retirement from their careers, and they wanted to build something worthwhile that they could pass on to their kids. Originally from Bend, Oregon, the Gutchers recognized upon relocating to Eastern Oregon that poker players were simply out of luck on this side of the state, the closest casinos being several hours away. The solution? Bring something to Ontario!



Carla and Jon Gutcher



Poker Room players

[Social gaming](#), by definition, is "a game (other than lottery) between players in a private business, private club or place of public accommodation where no house player, house bank or house odds exist, and there is no house income from the operation of the game." Oregon allows several types of gambling but cities are allowed to place their own ordinances and codes. Prior to 2016,

social gambling was prohibited in Ontario. Jon and Carla had seen other legal card rooms around the state and knew it was something that was worth bringing to Ontario. They did research on other social gambling businesses around the state, gathered data, researched state requirements and regulations, and presented their findings to the City Council in hopes that the city ordinances could be changed. The ambitious couple also held many community meetings to educate residents about social gambling, explain the benefits to the community and city, and to do away with the "speakeasy" stereotype, or other concerns that might be on people's minds.

Their presentation to the city was a success and their hard work paid off.

In 2016 the city reshaped the ordinances, and Ontario's first social gaming establishment was opened. Anytime new waters are explored, unexpected issues and unforeseen complications arise, but the Gutchers have worked through these things with the city management, and they are better for the experiences. The guidelines and laws for legal gambling are strict and well-enforced at all levels, but in dealing with laws, ordinances and the "powers that be", Jon and Carla say "stand up for yourself and press on through the obstacles, and always pursue your dreams".

While poker is the main draw for most of the people who



walk in the doors, the Gutchers encourage their customers to play ANY kind of game! They have hearts, spades, euchre, cribbage and other games, and they welcome a "bring your own game" policy - encouraging



groups of people to come in and use their space to play any game they'd like, with a large group or small. They offer food, a selection of wine and beer, and a big screen TV to keep tabs on the big game. For customers interested specifically in playing poker for cash, there are events every night of the week, and frequent tournaments, and The Poker Room currently runs up to 4 tables at a time.

As they see the continued increase in customers, Jon and Carla have exciting ideas for their place. Their biggest vision is to to expand into the upstairs of their current building. They want to open a full bar and restaurant, increase the poker capacity to 15-20 tables, and create the space to host other large group games such as Magic the Gathering (a card/deck building game popular with large groups). In short, the Gutchers want the people coming into Ontario Poker Room and Social Club to love the "social" as much as the "poker" and all the energy they put into the business supports that philosophy.



Chris Hollaway,
SBDC Advisor

Chris Hollaway, SBDC advisor, has worked closely with the Gutchers throughout their journey. As they began to brainstorm about this vision early on, Chris helped them navigate the world of state and local requirements/regulations. As permissions were gained and they began gathering speed, Chris and the Gutchers worked to develop their online presence, including a [website](#) and a [Facebook](#) page. Now that the Poker Room is off and running, Chris has continued to work closely with the Gutchers, providing mentoring services, and

acting as a sounding board for brainstorming about ideas for adding new elements to the business and new ways to reach out to customers. Jon and Carla have been very appreciative of his involvement and of the role that the SBDC has played in getting their business open, steady and growing.

Small business are often born from something a person loves, and then they find a way to turn their passion into a business. Do you have an idea you've tossed around for awhile? Do you have new ideas for a business you already own? We'd love to assist you! Call the [SBDC office](#) at 541-881-5772 to schedule an appointment.





PETITION OF Persons who want HB2190
 TO FAIL, WHO want House of REPS TO
 VOTE NO. on HB-2190

- Gary Wood	1-253-906-1517	Gary Wood
Oranby Howell	1-208 407-2215	Oranby Howell
Nathan Cook	1-208 409-6283	Nathan Cook
Ken Murphy	1 907 654 9074	Ken Murphy
Jen Mettler	1-208-602-5994	Jen Mettler
Todd Harnder	1-503-949-3962	Todd Harnder
Scott Brown	1-208-380-1564	Scott Brown
Jeff Goodman	1-208 467 -3232	Jeff Goodman
Richard Hare	1-208 740-4455	Richard Hare
NICK NORTH	1-208-392-8980	Nick North
Carla Gutcher	1-208-739-8812	Carla Gutcher
Jon Gutcher	1-541-709-0401	Jon Gutcher
Jerry STONE	208 230 3758	Jerry O Stone
MUOI "	208 570 8820	Muoi Stone
CHAD COSTELLO	208 995 - 7656	Chad Costello
Byron Purkett (Coach)	350-632-5250	Byron Purkett
Raymond Ortiz	1-208-615-7537	Raymond Ortiz
Vigel Bay Bergann	1-208-230-1760	Vigel Bay Bergann
Kylee Holdaway	1-208-985-5516	Kylee Holdaway
Cassi HART	1-208-406-4337	Cassi Hart
Lorraine Hall (323)	717-0109	Lorraine Hall
Vernice Applegate	(208) 447-082	Vernice Applegate
Archie Harp	208-747-8344	Archie Harp
	208 412 7562	Kenneth McAllister
Don Dewey	208-880-4131	Don Dewey

PETITION TO KILL HB 2190 SOCIAL GAMING

NAME:	Phone:	Signature:
CLARENCE L. RHEA	208-886-4920	Clarence L. Rhea
Cody Hyde	208-830-5108	Cody Hyde
Jacob Smith	541 709 9079	Jacob Smith
Chris Hollaway	208-899-6860	Chris Hollaway
Brett Hydrick	208-230-2838	Brett Hydrick
Robert White	208-739-1187	Robert White
JEREMY DEWITT	208-779-6977	Jeremy DeWitt
Kurt Kolbas	541-212-7230	Kurt Kolbas
CHRIS AUSTIN	208-591-1471	Chris Austin
John Edmondson	208-739-8314	John Edmondson
Ted Gillespie	208 608 1320	Ted Gillespie
EVES SIRBIC	208 392 2733	Eves Sirbic
Kelly Doughty	208-761-1483	Kelly Doughty
James Kemble	208-505-7536	James Kemble
Kevin Border	208-412-6288	Kevin Border
TYSEN Klafke	208-695-1773	TySen Klafke
Cole Parker	208-697-4321	Cole Parker
Daniel Johnson	(503) 338-9199	Daniel Johnson
CHAD COSTELLO	(208) 995-7656	Chad Costello
JACLYN R. JOHNSON	541-239-8900	Jaclyn R. Johnson
Michael Ruff	541-889-4288	Michael Ruff
Fermin Figueroa	7034590343	Fermin Figueroa
Chay McGregor	541-891-5016	Chay McGregor
THOMAS W. FLETCHER	541-212-9535	Thomas W. Fletcher
Dawn Lee Fern	208-519-0651	Dawn Lee Fern
Jordan Lewis	208-941-5000	Jordan Lewis
Jerry MIZUTA	208.741.6900	Jerry Mizuta

Steve MATKOVIC	208-740-4055	Steve Matkovic
Sherri Hinkley	208-741-4983	Sherri Hinkley
Daniel Posey	208-739-7851	Daniel Posey
Michelle	208-405-8638	Michelle
Eric Nelson	208 439 0243	Eric Nelson
Chris Edwards	208 602 3204	Chris Edwards
DENNIS BARR	541-297-5614	Dennis Barr
Douglas Haun	208-405-9821	Douglas Haun
WARREN KEENE	208-230-8152	Warren Keene
DALE IVONS	208-739-2321	Dale Ivons
Tom Collingwood	208-405-8251	Tom Collingwood
Mike Loomis	541-281-7504	Mike Loomis
RON REASTER	541 239 8176	Ron Reaster
Mike Philpott	541 891 6161	Mike Philpott
Gregory L. Romans	541-212-1790	Gregory L. Romans
RICHARD SEMSPOTT	208-941-5111	Richard Sempott
Travis Gutcher	208-713-8822	Travis Gutcher
Kelley Katz	208 740. 4401	Kelley Katz
Carrie Costello	208-995-7655	Carrie Costello
Kurt & Kalba	541- 821 212-7230	Kurt & Kalba
Gerald Blumer	208-739-5787	Gerald Blumer
DANIEL BOWEN	208 422-7578	Daniel Bowen
HARRY JOHNSON	541 589 2386	Harry Johnson
Michelle	208-230-6326	Michelle
Kyle Lammers	208 530 7973	Kyle Lammers