



## FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE OF OHIO, INC.

222 East Town Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-4611

(614) 224-5700 Fax (614) 224-5775

www.fopohio.org



*President*  
**JAY McDONALD**  
Marion, P.D.

*Vice President*  
**GARY WOLSKE**  
Garfield Heights, P.D.

*Secretary*  
**MARK DRUM**  
Delaware, P.D.

*Treasurer*  
**RON HAINES**  
ODNR-Parks

*2nd Vice President*  
**DERRIC McDONALD**  
Dayton, P.D.

*Sergeant at Arms*  
**JASON PAPPAS**  
Columbus, P.D.

*Immediate Past President*  
**NICK DiMARCO**  
Garfield Heights, P.D.

*District Trustees*  
*First*  
**TROY MINEARD**  
Akron, P.D.

*Second*  
**MARC LAUTENSCHLEGER**  
Dover, P.D.

*Third*  
**RON SUSANA**  
Sandusky, P.D.

*Fourth*  
**DARRIN LOGAN**  
Newark, P.D.

*Fifth*  
**ED BUNS**  
Hamilton, P.D.

*Sixth*  
**MIKE WATKINS**  
Lima, P.D.

*Seventh*  
**DAMIAN GLASER**  
Cleveland, P.D.

*Eighth*  
**BILL SARINGER**  
North Olmstead, P.D.

*Ninth*  
**GREG TOYEAS**  
Cincinnati, P.D.

*Tenth*  
**ERIC T. LEHNHART**  
BCI&I

*Eleventh*  
**SHAUN LAIRD**  
Columbus, P.D.

*National Trustee*  
**CHET DeLONG**  
Columbus, P.D.

*Chief Counsel*  
**PAUL L. COX**

February 2015

The Honorable Steven J. Chabot  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Chabot:

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Ohio State Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police to thank you for your ongoing commitment to public safety in our great State and to applaud you and your colleagues on the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations for closely examining the issues related to Internet safety and online gaming.

As the Subcommittee considers this issue, I would like to ask you to oppose legislation entitled the "Restoration of America's Wire Act." While we respect the wide range of opinions on gambling that exist in Congress and in this country, one thing is clear: a ban on Internet gaming would make our communities less safe.

Banning Internet gaming domestically will increase the size and scope of the already-robust offshore gaming system. An estimated one million Americans currently use these overseas accounts, spending nearly \$3 billion a year on sites that are operated without licenses or oversight. Law enforcement agencies, including ours, have our hands tied when it comes to going after instances of identity theft, fraud, or other criminal acts.

The best way to stop this criminal activity from happening is to establish a well regulated online gaming industry like programs that have been implemented in States like New Jersey, Delaware and Nevada. Individual States should be left to decide for themselves how best to implement and regulate gaming activity on- and offline.

I have spent my entire career fighting crime and the risks that the current black market gambling sites pose to consumers and children alike is enormous. The proposed legislation would do nothing to curb unlawful online gaming. In fact, it would only push dangerous black market vendors further into the shadows, putting consumers and even children at great risk. We need to do everything we can to shut unregulated sites down, not give them more opportunities to thrive.

In addition, Congress has already spoken on this issue. A Federal ban on online gaming would undermine current law, which recognizes that horse racing, fantasy sports and intrastate authorized gaming and lotteries are not subject to restrictions set forth by Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act of 2006 (UIGEA)—a bill the FOP supported.

Since the enactment of UIGEA, the FOP has diligently worked to ensure that laws intended to combat money laundering and other criminal activity were implemented to their fullest extent. A ban will only hinder our efforts to combat unlawful activity on the Internet.

Thank you again for your ongoing service to our nation and your consideration of the facts on this important issue. I hope that we can work together to ensure that consumers are protected and criminals are brought to justice. If I can provide any additional information on this or any other issue, please do not hesitate to contact me or the FOP's National Legislative Office in Washington, D.C.

Sincerely,

  
Jay McDonald  
President