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# FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

QUEEN CITY LODGE NO. 69

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February 26, 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 Queen City Lodge #69 of the Fraternal Order of Police to provide you with our perspective on issues related to Internet safety and online gaming.

The Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations will be considering this issue and a specific bill entitled the "Restoration of America's Wire Act," in this session. From the perspective of my lodge, one thing is clear: a ban on Internet gaming would make our communities less safe and for this reason, I urge you to oppose the "Restoration of America's Wire Act."

Advocates for this bill will say that they seek to end the money laundering, fraud, identity theft and other criminal acts that exist online. Law enforcement shares this goal, but unfortunately, the remedy proposed by this bill is flawed and risks exacerbating the danger of consumers being victimized by Internet crime. An estimated one million Americans currently use Internet gaming accounts that are based offshore and spend nearly \$3 billion per year on these sites. Banning Internet gaming wholesale in the United States would further empower these illegal, offshore sites and leave law enforcement in California and nationwide without the tools to protect our citizens.

New Jersey has shown conclusively that when Internet gaming is brought out from the shadows, consumers are protected and law enforcement has the tools to go after bad actors. Advanced technologies ensure that children are unable to access the sites and that users are limited to the borders of the State—the New Jersey geolocation program has a 98% success rate. Over a half million accounts have been opened in New Jersey and are protected from fraud.

We should be letting States and law enforcement work together to create a system that protects our communities. Since the enactment of UIGEA, which the FOP supported, we have worked diligently 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,



Kathleen Harrell  
President, Queen City Lodge #69  
Ohio State Lodge  
Fraternal Order of Police