



CALIFORNIA STATE LODGE

FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

13410 Hilltop Terrace
Valley Center, CA. 92082

www.cafop.org

February 26, 2015

The Honorable Karen Bass
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Judy Chu
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Bass and Chu,

I am writing on behalf of the members of the California State Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police to advise you of our perspective on the ongoing discussion of Internet gaming taking place in Congress. Our membership is grateful for the leadership that you both have shown on public safety issues and know that our State is safer because of your efforts on the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations.

The FOP believes that legislation entitled the “Restoration of America’s Wire Act” would put consumers at risk and undermine the efforts of law enforcement as we seek to protect Californians from Internet-related crimes. For these reasons, we respectfully urge you to oppose the bill.

Advocates for this bill will say that they seek to end the money laundering, fraud, identity theft and other criminal acts that exist online. This is a laudable goal and one many of our members work to address on a daily basis. 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. This proposed ban would only undermine the strides we have made in

combating unlawful Internet activity. I hope that you will support our men and women in uniform and oppose this legislation.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and your service to our State and your consideration of the facts on this important issue. 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,

Roger D. Mayberry

Roger Mayberry
President, California State Lodge
Fraternal Order of Police