

LETTER TO MEMBER OF CONGRESS--BEFORE

January 1, 2017

Congressman John Doe
2222 Rayburn House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: H.R. 717 Restoration of America's Wire Act

Dear Representative John Doe:

As a casual online poker player and a constituent of yours living in Parsippany, New Jersey, I encourage you to vote No on Representative Jason Chaffetz's bill and to consider legalizing off-track betting on thoroughbred horse racing across the country; an oft-overlooked issue, in my humble opinion. This is the second time he has introduced this bill to the House that seeks to ban online gambling in the 3 states that allow it: Delaware (the First State), Nevada (which I have enjoyed visiting on many august occasions) and our great state of New Jersey. Doubling down will get him nowhere!

Just like with legal brick-and-mortar casinos, off-track betting locations and state-sponsored lotteries, online gambling is an extremely enjoyable and exciting hobby for millions of red-blooded, gun-toting, God-fearing, flag waving Americans. With the low bet limit tables, it is almost always cheaper for me to play a few hours of online poker on a Friday night than to go to the movies. It also allows me to connect and spend time with friends who no longer live close enough to play poker in our basements (aka "Man Caves").

I understand the risks of underage and out-of-state players, but the companies who run these sites are already strict about verifying information. Your lack of understanding of this quintessential fact shows that you are totally and completely clueless about this. The site I use is run by Caesars Interactive, which is based in the Garden State. They use 8 different verifications including checking for a valid social security number. If there is concern that out-of-state or underage citizens are using these gambling sites, where is the evidence?

Another concern brought up by this bill's supporters is the economic affect on brick-and-mortar casinos. This may be the case to some extent, that online players might have spent their money in-person at a local casino if Internet gambling was not available. However, this is simply the nature of a free market. We cannot protect special interests by shutting down up-and-coming technology and businesses.

Sadly, one of the main arguments being used by Chaffetz is one of "family values." The bill he authored was supported by the outrageously false assumption that online gambling allows minors easy access to gambling when this is not the case for any online casino based in the United States. The only ones that may cause problems are those that are based overseas to skirt our laws. A few congressmen's opinion on family values should not make federal law.

Additionally, it is clear that this bill as a "Restoration of America's Wire Act" of 1961 is misleading. The original wire act banned "bets or wagers on any sporting event or contest." For years, the Justice Department claimed this wording banned online gambling even though it was written before the Internet even existed. This decision was finally rejected in 2002 by a federal appeals court. Even the Justice Department no longer supports its own previous claim.

As a solution, I would suggest more serious crackdowns on U.S. access to offshore gambling sites that do attempt to violate these state laws. It may also be worth adding a [payroll tax](#) to the rake that is collected by the U.S. companies like Caesars Interactive.

Thanks for your consideration, and I again urge you to vote "NO!" on this bill. The very survival of our nation's economy depends on this law being deep-sixed and sent to Davey's locker!!!! Shame on you for supporting this outrageous bill!!!!!!

Sincerely,

Jack Spade
Parsippany, NJ