

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

CRACK DOWN ON INTERNET GAMBLING
Cosponsor Congressman Goodlatte's bipartisan "Internet
Gambling Prohibition Act"

February 15, 2006

Dear Colleague:

Internet gambling is a serious and growing problem. The FBI and the Department of Justice have testified that Internet gambling serves as a vehicle for money laundering activities that can be exploited by terrorists and organized crime rings. The anonymity associated with the Internet makes online gambling even more susceptible to crime.

In addition, online gambling wreaks havoc on families and communities. The negative consequences of online gambling are only a mouse click away and are more detrimental to minors, addictive gamblers and their families than if a bricks and mortar casino were built right next door. Online gambling often leads to addiction, bankruptcy, divorce, crime, and moral decline just as do traditional forms of gambling. These costs are ultimately borne by society.

Gambling is currently illegal in the United States unless regulated by the States. With the development of the Internet, however, prohibitions and regulations governing gambling have been turned on their head. The numerous gambling websites from the Caribbean and elsewhere are unlicensed and unregulated by any state, and thus violate all 50 state laws in which they are available. Furthermore, federal law is confusing as to what types of online gambling are prohibited and whether the current federal prohibition covers all Internet technologies.

That is why I intend to introduce legislation to clarify the state of the law by specifically amending the Wire Act to bring the current prohibition against wireline interstate gambling up to speed with the Internet and other new technologies and to give law enforcement additional tools to combat illegal gambling.

It is time to put a stop to the gambling websites that are preying on our children, defrauding our citizens and draining billions of dollars from our economy. To cosponsor this important legislation or for more information, please contact Branden Ritchie in Congressman Goodlatte's office at 5-5431 or branden.ritchie@mail.house.gov.



Bob Goodlatte
Member of Congress

Sincerely,



Frank Wolf
Member of Congress