

From: "Christopher Bohl" <christopher.bohl@gmail.com> on 12/11/2007 07:05:02 PM

Subject: Reg. GG -- Internet gambling

I would just like to use this email to express my support for online poker in the hopes that it can return to the way it was over a year ago. There's really no reason that I can see to restrict online poker. For one, it's no different than the poker that goes on in casinos across the country - it's completely hypocritical to allow it in casinos and ban it online. Not only that, but poker is a very skilled game - playing poker for cash is akin to athletes all over the world competing in basketball, soccer, etc. It is merely a more organized payment structure- at least that's one way of looking at it. In poker, the intelligent and observant players are directly rewarded after each hand.

I just don't understand why the government would want to intervene in this game. Thousands of people in America are making a good living playing poker online most of the day. We pay taxes on our profits and the profits go back into our economy. People that are losing money are people with money to burn - and they are allowing for money to trickle down, which is far better for everyone than letting it stagnate in a trust fund. Those that can't afford to lose the money that they lose at poker... well, there's not much to say about them. A fool and his money are soon parted. These are the same people that spend half their paychecks on clothes. They're just not good with money. At least poker is a skill game where they can improve - it's far better than letting people gamble on slots or blackjack. If the government's concern were really for these people, they would ban casinos across the nation, not just online.

Let's be blunt - the only reason that I can see for outlawing online gambling is the heart of America - money. So let America get it's share of the profits. Start better online poker rooms or rooms that are only accessible to Americans and don't let all the profits from rake go to random corporations in Gibraltar or some other random part of the world. Develop better systems of tracking money that is transferred in and out of poker sites to figure out how much people make on these sites and hold them accountable for taxes. We can regulate this industry all we want, but it won't go away. Poker is all over television and the casinos and college campuses and suburban households. Online poker is a great way for people to improve their play (by playing more hands per hour) at stakes that they are comfortable at (online, you can play a buy-in game for 1 dollar, but at casinos you have to buy in for at least 60 dollars).

This is (or at least was) a very fast- growing phenomenon. It's a game of psychology, math, risk vs. reward and astute observation. It racks your brain harder than anything else I can think of. People that become successful poker players are well- versed in analyzing every aspect of a decision, how to manage money and capitalize off of trends. Many players that I know have gone on to invest their winnings in businesses or start their own businesses - it's like the reverse of how it used to be. Poker is now a means to get ahead in life. People used to only gamble after years of hard work earning enough money to be liberal with. Now, young kids who couldn't afford college can make the money they need to take chances in the business world by the time they're 25 without years of a mind-numbing, paper- pushing desk job. Poker is a leg up for intelligent people. It makes people harder workers, long-term thinkers and exercises their brains.

There is no reason to stop online poker- or any poker, for that matter. It is a game of skill that can be played for no money or for thousands of dollars - whatever the player is comfortable with. People that can make a living off of it are no different than people that make a living playing any

other game. But, I'm all for banning gambling games. Especially if the sites aren't based in America, those are just a drain on our economy. There's no way for the masses to make money at online slots or whatever else they have out there. Those games are also mindless, A-B-C games that are purely for gamble.

In summation... we just need to figure out how to keep the money in America. I'd venture that, as a whole, Americans profit off of players from other countries in online poker, though I could be mistaken. We simply need to base poker sites in America so that the rake can cycle back into our economy. I really think that trying to stop online gaming is futile - there will always be ways around it. And, if there aren't, thousand of people that make good livings and pay taxes on their winnings will be moving to another country - myself included.

Sincerely,
Christopher Bohl