

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

December 9, 2014

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski  
Chairwoman  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
S-128, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard C. Shelby  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
S-128, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Harold Rogers  
Chairman  
House Committee on Appropriations  
H-305, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Mikulski, Ranking Member Shelby, Chairman Rogers, and Ranking Member Lowey:

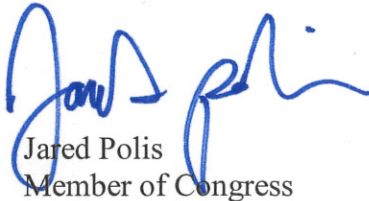
As you craft legislation to fund the federal government over the next fiscal year, we urge you to refrain from including any extraneous provisions that would harm or outlaw online gaming businesses operating legally in the United States. Online gaming is a prosperous global industry that has grown increasingly popular in countries throughout the world. Here in the U.S., four states have adopted laws to legalize and regulate some forms of Internet gambling, and similar measures are currently pending before several state legislatures.

Congress should not try to subvert the will of these states by passing a blanket online gaming ban. Closing down state-legal online gaming services would only drive consumers to wager with offshore operators – who can behave unscrupulously with virtually no oversight by any government – and deprive our economy of billions of dollars in revenue. It would be particularly objectionable to attempt to pass such a controversial measure by attaching it behind closed doors to a mandatory government funding bill that will likely come to the floor without opportunity for amendment.


Instead, Congress should focus on creating a regulatory and licensing framework that eliminates the contradictions in our present federal gambling laws. Americans currently wager more than \$100 billion annually, but because of onerous and haphazard federal limitations on what types of Internet gaming are legal, most of this wagering occurs with foreign-based gaming services. Congress should prioritize creating workable online gaming policies that protect consumers and support honest American gaming businesses. If we use the waning days of the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress to impose a blanket ban on the entire industry and drive more Americans to wager with offshore operators, we will be failing the constituents we were elected to serve by sending jobs overseas.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. We look forward to working with you to reform our nation's online gambling laws in ways that will grow our economy, protect consumers, and respect the role of Congress in promoting innovation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jared Polis".

Jared Polis  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Cohen".

Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress