

puts artificial boundaries on the Internet when the Internet is designed specifically to transcend boundaries.

I share my colleagues's desire to protect society from the dangers of abusive gambling which can be a corrosive agent, both culturally and personally. However, H.R. 3125 does not do what it purports to do. If Congress wants to ban gambling on the Internet then it should ban all gambling on the Internet. The piecemeal approach embodied in H.R. 3125 is an exercise in hypocrisy. I urge my colleagues to vote against H.R. 3125.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3125, the Internet Gambling Prohibition Act. During Judiciary Committee mark-up, I brought up my concerns relating to the tribal gaming exemption. I am pleased that the Gentleman from Virginia, Mr. GOODLATTE, and the Gentleman from Alaska, Mr. YOUNG, were willing to work with me to include language which addresses my concerns about what I believe was an ambiguous section of the bill.

I would like to take a moment to explain my concerns and how, through the manager's amendment, these concerns were addressed. The provision exempting gambling on a closed loop system requires both the sender and the receiver to be on Indian lands. This is not limited to the Indian lands on which the game is conducted, therefore, it would allow linking of all Indian lands nationwide. My concern with this language was how multi-Tribal linking could impact individual Tribal/State gaming Compacts.

Let me provide an example: If State A's Compact allows for slots, and State B's Compact allows for blackjack and slots, absent clarification, the tribe in State A could argue it can now participate in blackjack. Included in the manager's amendment is additional language on this section to ensure that no Class III gaming activity can occur without the explicit authorization of a Tribal/State Compact. This language does not require Tribes to renegotiate their Compacts with states; rather it reinforces the Tribal/State Compact.

In conclusion, the Indian gaming language has been clarified so that the carefully negotiated Tribal/State compacts are not at risk. I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I oppose H.R. 3125, the Internet Gambling Prohibition Act.

I am concerned that the bill creates unfair carve outs. In-home gambling on horse and dog races is allowed, but tribal Internet gaming is prohibited. I fail to see how dog races are acceptable but tribal gaming is not. This bill does not deserve our support.

The bill is so riddled with exemptions it is opposed by the Traditional Values Coalition, which says that the bill does little to address the problems it purports to solve.

Tribal gaming has been essential in furthering economic development on our reservations. It has allowed for medical clinics and upgrading of substandard housing. It has lifted Native Americans from poverty. It has given them self-determination over their destiny. It has furthered Native American sovereignty.

It is important we recognize all Native Americans have given to this country. For that reason, earlier in the year I introduced H. Res. 487 to honor Native Americans.

Native Americans have shown their willingness to fight and die for this nation in foreign lands. They honor the American flag at every powwow.

Native Americans should be treated fairly. We should not burden them with restrictions we are unwilling to place on others.

The bill is opposed by the Department of Justice, AT&T, the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, Computer and Communications Industry Association, Covad Communications, Center for Democracy and Technology, National Congress of American Indians, Electronic Privacy Information Center, ACLU, Traditional Values Coalition, Seniors Coalition, Free Congress Foundation, Americans for Tax Reform, CATO Institute, American Association of Concerned Tax Payers, and Coalition for Constitutional Liberties.

For all of the above reasons, I am opposing H.R. 3125.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in opposition to H.R. 3125, which could more appropriately be re-titled the Internet Gambling Proliferation Act.

What this proposed legislation does is impose a new set of laws that selectively privilege some forms of gambling by exempting them from these laws. At the same time, other forms of gambling are condemned. What Congress should do is work with the states to enact legislation, which deals rationally with prohibiting or regulating Internet gambling.

Furthermore, in my home State of New Mexico—as in many other states—this legislation would unnecessarily complicate the ability of states and tribal governments to work out a rational regulatory scheme.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3125, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3125.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

SEMIPOSTAL AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4437) to grant to the United States Postal Service the authority to issue semipostals, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4437

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Semipostal Authorization Act".

SEC. 2. AUTHORITY TO ISSUE SEMIPOSTALS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 4 of title 39, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"§ 416. Authority to issue semipostals

"(a) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

"(1) the term 'semipostal' means a postage stamp which is issued and sold by the Postal Service, at a premium, in order to help provide funding for a cause described in subsection (b); and

"(2) the term 'agency' means an Executive agency within the meaning of section 105 of title 5.

"(b) DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITY.—The Postal Service is hereby authorized to issue and sell semipostals under this section in order to advance such causes as the Postal Service considers to be in the national public interest and appropriate.

"(c) RATE OF POSTAGE.—The rate of postage on a semipostal issued under this section shall be established by the Governors, in accordance with such procedures as they shall by regulation prescribe (in lieu of the procedures under chapter 36), except that—

"(1) the rate established for a semipostal under this section shall be equal to the rate of postage that would otherwise regularly apply, plus a differential of not to exceed 25 percent; and

"(2) no regular rates of postage or fees for postal services under chapter 36 shall be any different from what they otherwise would have been if this section had not been enacted.

The use of any semipostal issued under this section shall be voluntary on the part of postal patrons.

"(d) AMOUNTS BECOMING AVAILABLE.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The amounts becoming available from the sale of a semipostal under this section shall be transferred to the appropriate agency or agencies under such arrangements as the Postal Service shall by mutual agreement with each such agency establish.

"(2) IDENTIFICATION OF APPROPRIATE CAUSES AND AGENCIES.—Decisions concerning the identification of appropriate causes and agencies to receive amounts becoming available from the sale of a semipostal under this section shall be made in accordance with applicable regulations under subsection (e).

"(3) DETERMINATION OF AMOUNTS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The amounts becoming available from the sale of a semipostal under this section shall be determined in a manner similar to that provided for under section 414(c)(2) (as in effect on July 1, 2000).

"(B) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Regulations under subsection (e) shall specifically address how the costs incurred by the Postal Service in carrying out this section shall be computed, recovered, and kept to a minimum.

"(4) OTHER FUNDING NOT TO BE AFFECTED.—Amounts which have or may become available from the sale of a semipostal under this section shall not be taken into account in any decision relating to the level of appropriations or other Federal funding to be furnished to an agency in any year.

"(5) RECOVERY OF COSTS.—Before transferring to an agency in accordance with paragraph (1) any amounts becoming available from the sale of a semipostal over any period, the Postal Service shall ensure that it has recovered the full costs incurred by the Postal Service in connection with such semipostal through the end of such period.

"(e) REGULATIONS.—