



Bowling Centers Association of Ohio

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BOWLING ALLEYS IN OHIO MAKE A STRIKING PROPOSAL

Over 80 bowling proprietors met in Columbus last week at their annual meeting, and the issue of expanded gaming was on everyone's mind. The Bowling Centers Association of Ohio (BCAO) which represents the interests of the 300 bowling alleys in Ohio discussed the potential negative impact on their centers if multi-million dollar corporations are allowed to offer gaming, and their centers are not able to participate.

Members of the BCAA endorsed a proposal which would allow a maximum of ten video lottery terminals (VLTs) to be installed in their centers, if expanded gaming comes to Ohio. The VLTs would be managed by the Ohio Lottery Commission, with 50% of the profits going to help fund the education of Ohio children. Currently, bowling alleys offer lottery tickets, and Keno.

Linus Hartings, President of BCAA, said, "Our businesses have been in our communities for 30 to 50 years, we employ Ohioans, pay Ohio taxes, and reinvest in our neighborhoods. We serve Main Street America, and want to offer our customers another form of entertainment in their local bowling alley."

The BCAA is mounting a grassroots campaign to educate legislators, policymakers and their customers about the gaming proposals in Ohio, and why bowling centers are the right venue for expanded gaming. Placement of VLTs in centers would be in secure locations, and only accessible to those customers over 21 years old. It is estimated, that allowing ten VLTs in each bowling center would bring the state of Ohio over \$130 million per year.

BCAO is a statewide trade association representing the interests of the bowling alleys in Ohio. Bowling Centers contribute over \$20 million in state and local tax payments and employ over 5,000 people in Ohio.

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