

June 1, 2009

Honorable Jason Wilson
Ohio Senate
Statehouse
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Senator Wilson:

As you continue to debate Ohio's budget bill, HB 1, and are looking at possible solutions to help fund education in Ohio, we wanted to provide you with some information on how expanding gaming in bowling alleys would add over \$130 million a year through the Ohio Lottery Commission.

The issue of expanded gaming continues to make front-page headlines, and the members of the Bowling Center Association of Ohio (BCAO) are concerned that if only the multi-billion dollar corporations are able to offer gaming, the small, local bowling centers may be negatively impacted. As I'm sure you are familiar with your own local bowling alley, we are small businesses who employ your constituents, pay Ohio taxes, and reinvest in our own communities. We are an entertainment venue, and we want to be able to offer our customers an opportunity to play video lottery terminals (VLTs) in our centers, if expanding gaming comes to Ohio.

The members of BCAO support a proposal which would allow a maximum of ten VLTs in our bowling alleys. We currently offer lottery tickets and Keno, so we can easily transition to operate VLTs through the Ohio Lottery Commission with 50% of our profits going to help fund education in Ohio. West Virginia and South Dakota allow VTLs in bowling centers, and through our research in these states, we believe that our estimated contribution to the state of \$130 million per year is very conservative.

Attached is a press release, as well as an informational sheet about bowling centers and our pro forma which details our projected estimates.

We know that the issue of gaming is controversial, but we also know that Ohio's budget is in a dire situation. If the Ohio legislature is looking to expand gaming, please don't forget the local businesses that have been good partners in your communities for years. We offer good entertainment for all ages and hope to remain viable businesses in our communities for years to come.

Please feel free to give me or any of our regional representatives a call, if you would like additional information or have questions.

Sincerely,

Linus Hartings
President