

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HJR 133

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON STATE AFFAIRS

Hearing Date: April 14, 2021 8:00 AM

Gregory Romeu

DevilsAdvocateArmory.com

Presidio, TX

Texas has long provided for, prospered and survived insurmountable financial challenges without having to rely on the monolithic possibilities and proven facts of fraud, corruption, destruction of values and moral turpitude of the gaming world.

ANYONE can study the effects and the pros and cons of opening up Texas which is still considered across the globe as a FREE STATE and will remain so, provided gambling such as casinos, race tracks and the like remain on the outside of the state lines.

This would be a great opportunity for those that operate "Bus Junket Tours" to come into the fold and bus those hell-bent on this sort of "action" to enjoy being chartered to neighboring states that provide these types of gaming practices.

DON'T MESS WITH TEXAS!

Adam Smok

Self

Weatherford, TX

This is a great idea and will bring multiple opportunities for job growth and additional funds for Texas instead of people leaving the state to go else where. People gamble why not allow it in Texas to help state revenue. I think all tax should go to state school funds, wildlife and gaming and infrastructure needed for highway maintenance

Adam Smok

Self

Weatherford, TX

Why should we pay for individuals transportation? Are they going to buy our gas? Who pays for the electric? Who pays for the charging stations? Where does the electric come from? No we Texans should not pay for trendy electric cars, first we pay towards electric car charging and extra generation for them, next gas car owners will have to pay extra taxes to even own a gas car. No, you want electric move to California.

Frank Holman

Self

Austin, TX

My comments are the same as the last two Bills relating to gambling. No good comes from it. No on HJR 133.

Nita Battise, Chairperson

Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas

Printed on: May 19, 2021 2:20 PM

Livingston, TX

Thank you for your continued leadership during this legislative session. As your fellow East Texans, the citizens of the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas are grateful for your services & for the critical role you play in charting a bright future for our state.

The Tribe is grateful for the opportunity to share our input on HJR 133. We believe any legislative effort regarding gaming must include the 3 federally recognized Texas tribes: the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo, & the Traditional Kickapoo Tribe of Texas. While we appreciate the input we have had w/ other stakeholders regarding HJR 133, we cannot support this joint resolution in its current form.

The 3 federally recognized tribes in Texas offer electronic bingo on our reservations. Our facility, Naskila Gaming, is responsible for 700 jobs in our region, w/ an annual economic benefit of \$170 million. However, unlike the Kickapoo, the A-C & Ysleta are not currently governed under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA), & therefore the State of Texas is seeking to prevent us from gaming on our land.

To resolve the issue w/ the state, Congressman Brian Babin introduced legislation 2 years ago on behalf of the A-C & the Ysleta. The U.S. House unanimously approved Babin's legislation to put our Tribe & the Ysleta under IGRA so all 3 tribes would be in parity w/ one another. After all, the electronic bingo our 2 tribes play is the exact same gaming offered by the Kickapoo. Nonetheless, despite the fact the bill was sponsored by more than half of the Texas delegation in the U.S. House, Babin's legislation died in the U.S. Senate because Governor Abbott asked Senator Cornyn to block it. The Governor's opposition & the Senate's inaction have jeopardized hundreds of East Texas jobs. Furthermore, Abbott has steadfastly refused to meet w/ the A-C & the Ysleta regarding this legislation or its impact on our future & the Texas economy.

Regarding HJR 133, the current version does not include a meaningful mechanism to hold the Governor accountable if he fails to negotiate w/ the 3 Tribes or does so in bad faith. The only truly effective way to ensure that he negotiates w/ the 3 tribes in good faith is to require Texas to waive its sovereign immunity. This would then allow the Tribes to sue the Governor in federal court in the event he acts in bad faith. It is important to note that the ability for our Tribe & the Ysleta to negotiate gaming agreements w/ Texas becomes simpler & easier to define if we are under IGRA as the procedures for tribes & states to negotiate & enter into such agreements are built into IGRA. IGRA has proven to be an effective & fair way for tribes & states to address gaming since 1988 - this is why we cannot support HJR 133.

W/ all due respect to other participants of this legislation, we has to ensure that the interests of our people are fully protected. We would be happy to visit further w/ you & members of your committee about these issues.

Andra Haney

Self

Fair Oaks Ranch, TX

I am opposed to this HJR. Casino gaming, more gambling - are you kidding? It is a well-known fact that gambling in an area results in more crime, more criminals moving here, and let's face it, we've got enough problems without having to bring more junk into Texas. Please toss this in the big metal barrel and burn it to ashes!

Justin Fields

Self

Leander, TX

I know that myself and many other Texas residents would love to practice Casino Gaming in Texas without having to travel long distances to either Oklahoma, Louisiana or Nevada. This Resolution would provide a great Tax revenue to the state as well as create many jobs in the gaming industry. We would be able to bring so much business that is currently going to Las Vegas from Texas Residents and bring proper trade schools. Please let this resolution go to the people and allow us to vote on this resolution to bring Casino Gaming to Texas!

E. Micael Silvas

Printed on: May 19, 2021 2:20 PM

Ysleta del Sur Pueblo

El Paso, TX

We are eager to work with all interested parties to bring more legal, profitable gaming to Texas. We believe HJR 133 is a productive beginning to that goal. But we share the Alabama-Coushatta's belief that the current language does not adequately recognize the history of tribal gaming in Texas, and does not adequately protect the Tribes and the crucial gaming activities that support the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo, and the larger El Paso community. We favor allowing the citizens of Texas the opportunity to vote on the issue of gaming in Texas. We believe Texas voters support gaming in Texas, and we believe any measure that goes before those voters should take into account the realities of the tribal experience, and protect the interests of the historical Tribes of Texas. We eagerly anticipate an opportunity to work with our legislators, the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe, the Kickapoo Tribe, and all other interested stakeholders to craft legislation that brings gaming to Texas, while also providing for the protection of all three federally recognized Indian Tribes in Texas.