

Public Comment for the June 28, 2024, OSL Commission Meeting

Hello Lottery Commissioners,

My name is Patrick McCallum. I currently own and operate Mac's Restaurant & Custom Catering in Eugene. I have been a video lottery retailer since it was introduced in 1992. The other establishments I owned were the Treehouse restaurant from 1977 to 1997 and the Wild Duck brewery & restaurant from 1996 to 2001.

As I witnessed one of the last 3 video terminals being removed from my establishment on Wednesday May 29, 2024, I could not help to feel like the very industry that was absolutely instrumental in securing video lottery for the state of Oregon is now being punished for not reaching sales goals.

As a board member and active participant with the Oregon Restaurant Association in the mid 80's and early 90's, I remember quite clearly that it was our lobbyists and executive team that were largely responsible for getting the Bars and taverns that were operating with "Grey Machines" to team up with the Oregon lottery to legitimize video gambling under the Oregon Lottery umbrella. Now, legitimate restaurant and bar operators are losing machines while the video poker parlors disguised as Deli's flourish with their six machines. It is very simply, not right!

I choose to operate my restaurant for dinner only 5 nights a week. I spend 90% of my time focused on our very busy, successful catering business. So please understand this is not about loss of revenue. What it is about is providing a pleasant and positive entertainment opportunity for my guests. And, now with only two machines my customers will have to wait, or they will just go elsewhere. Both of which I find highly unacceptable.

It is a classic case of biting the hand that's been feeding you for 32 years.

While I recognize that you good folks are charged with maximizing revenue for the state. And of course, the lottery does good things! Please consider how you got here, and all the legitimate restaurant and bar owners that have made it possible!

Thanks for listening.

Sincerely,
Pat McCallum