

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

LETTER FROM INDIANA ATTORNEY GENERAL GREG ZOELLER

**HON. MIKE PENCE**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 20, 2010*

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I submit the following letter.

DEAR CHAIRMAN LEVIN AND RANKING MEMBER CAMP: I write to express my serious concerns about H.R. 4976, the "Internet Gambling Regulation and Tax Enforcement Act of 2010," and the legislation it implements, H.R. 2267, the "Internet Gambling Regulation, Consumer Protection, and Enforcement Act." The "optimum" revenue effects of these bills can be achieved only by massive and unprecedented expansion of gambling and by preempting the powers of the States to regulate gambling within their borders.

Gambling regulation has traditionally been conducted by the States and Indian tribes. H.R. 2267, the substantive proposal that underlies the revenue provisions of H.R. 4976, creates an Internet gambling licensing system that vests regulatory authority in the United States Treasury Department. While H.R. 2267 allows the Treasury to partner with States to carry out regulatory and enforcement activities, the bill also provides all Federal licensees with a "complete defense against any prosecution or enforcement action under any Federal or State law." This "safe harbor" provision effectively nullifies existing State laws by placing all Federal license-holders outside the scope of the States' own gambling enforcement powers.

H.R. 2267 also preempts current Federal laws that are vital to State gambling and regulatory frameworks. State laws are reinforced by Federal statutes that either rely on substantive State provisions or prevent interstate incursions on State-level public policies. The Federal Wire Act of 1961, for instance, supplements State gambling controls by barring interstate wagers. The Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act of 2006 is structured, in part, around State gambling laws. By exempting licensees from laws such as the Wire Act or UIGEA, H.R. 2267 severely impairs this long-standing, complimentary relationship between Federal and State regulatory systems.

Importantly, the revenue-generating power of H.R. 4976 depends almost entirely on the Federal preemption made possible by H.R. 2267. H.R. 2267 does provide a restrictive opt-out mechanism through which the States may decline to participate in the Federal licensing system. However, the Joint Committee on Taxation's most expansive of four different estimates—\$42 billion—is based on discarding even these State opt-out rights in favor of complete Federal preemption. In that estimate, the Joint Committee explicitly assumed that "no State or tribal government will be permitted to limit federally licensed Internet gambling operators from providing online gambling services in their jurisdictions." In other words, H.R. 4976 will generate \$42 billion only if H.R. 2267's opt-out procedure—its principal State-protective provision—is eviscerated.

The Joint Committee on Taxation estimate that is most clearly based on the texts

of H.R. 2267 and H.R. 4976 indicates that the bills will generate approximately \$10 billion in Federal revenue. This much more modest estimate appears to assume that many States will choose to opt-out in order to prevent the expansion of gambling on the Internet. While we realize that H.R. 4976 provides license fee revenue and grants to the States, these incentives do not assuage my concerns. Thank you for considering my view.

Sincerely,

GREGORY F. ZOELLER,  
*Indiana Attorney General.*

CONGRATULATING MVP DIANA TAURASI

**HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 20, 2010*

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Diana Taurasi on being voted the 2009 Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) Most Valuable Player, the 2009 WNBA Finals Most Valuable Player, and the recipient of the 2010 ESPY Award for Best WNBA Player.

During Ms. Taurasi's 2009 MVP campaign, she ranked among the WNBA's top ten leaders in nearly every statistical category, including points per game, three point field goals made, three-point field goals attempted, three-point field goal percentage, free throws made, free throws attempted, free throw percentage, field goals made, field goals attempted, blocks per game and defensive rebounds per game.

In 2009, Ms. Taurasi became the fastest WNBA player to reach 4,000 career points, while leading the WNBA with 20.4 points per game. Ms. Taurasi also ranks 13th in WNBA history for points scored and third in all-time points per game. Ms. Taurasi is one of two players in WNBA history to win an MVP Award, a WNBA championship and the finals MVP in the same season.

I am truly privileged to honor Ms. Taurasi for her accomplishments. Her commitment to excellence should serve as an inspiration for all.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Diana Taurasi as she is honored as being the 2009 WNBA Most Valuable Player, the 2009 WNBA Finals Most Valuable Player and the 2010 ESPY Best WNBA Player.

FLOOD INSURANCE REFORM  
PRIORITIES ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 15, 2010*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5114) to extend the authorization for the National Flood Insurance Program, to identify priorities es-

sential to reform and ongoing stable functioning of the program, and for other purposes:

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of this bill.

This issue of great importance to my constituents, as multiple counties in New Jersey—including several in my district—have frequently been declared Federal disaster areas over the last decade because of severe, frequent floods. From Kingwood to Trenton to South River, thousands of central New Jersey residents have seen their homes and businesses ruined by these floods, which are undoubtedly being driven in part by global climate change that is producing more frequent and severe weather across our country.

The bill before us would ensure that the National Flood Insurance Program is reauthorized through 2015, and it includes many homeowner-friendly provisions. For the first time since 1994, raises the maximum coverage limits for flood insurance policies for residences from \$250,000 to \$335,000. The bill also delays for five years requirement mandating the purchase of flood insurance for homeowners in a neighborhood newly classified as a flood zone—so that these homeowners are not suddenly burdened with unexpected insurance costs. I regret that the House Committee on Rules refused to make in order an amendment I offered that would have frozen annual premium rate increases to no more than 10 percent annually, but I will continue to argue for such a freeze during conference negotiations on this bill.

More broadly, Congress needs to take further steps to help communities mitigate potential flood damage.

Last year, I secured \$314,000 for the Army Corps of Engineers to continue Flood Mitigation in the Raritan River Basin. The funding supports the work of the Army Corps of Engineers to protect the region from flooding. As a result of the 2007 Water Resources Development Act, the Army Corps has begun preconstruction on flood mitigation projects that were recommended in the Corps feasibility report completed in September 2002. The project includes the construction of a storm surge barrier, floodwalls and levees, interior drainage facilities, and ecosystem restoration. The project benefits the communities of East Brunswick, Old Bridge and South River. Additionally, I secured \$300,000 for the City of Trenton to implement measures to protect its water filtration plant from flood events. Flood damage to the plant could cause devastating service interruptions and have an adverse impact on the drinking water supply. I will continue to support such preventive measures, even as I work to enact policies that will halt the kind of harmful climatic changes that are at least in part fueling the storms and flooding that perennially threaten our communities.

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