

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 7, 2007

The Honorable Deborah P. Majoras
Chairman
Federal Trade Commission
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20580

Dear Chairman Majoras,

We are writing to request that the FTC's Bureau of Consumer Protection examine the advertising, marketing and financial practices of companies associated with illegal online gambling in the United States. We are concerned that a number of businesses and individuals are employing misleading facts to entice Americans into illegal activity.

As you know, gambling is illegal or subject to strict regulation in most States. In 2006, Congress passed the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act (UIGEA) in order to provide further federal enforcement of federal and state gambling laws. One of the central purposes of UIGEA is to prevent the use of payment instruments for unlawful Internet gambling. However, as you are no doubt aware, aggressive marketing of online gambling is common on the Internet, in print and on television in every state today.

It has come to our attention that some Internet gambling companies are publishing false information about the recently enacted UIGEA, including information leading U.S. citizens to believe that those online companies can still operate legally. In addition, online gambling companies continue to use websites ending in the top level domains .org and .net as "educational websites" for teaching the public how to play online poker and other forms of online gambling, including allowing participation in gaming without placing real-money bets. These "educational websites" are so similar in name and appearance that they beg the question of whether they are intended to be confused with the websites that actually offer online gambling.

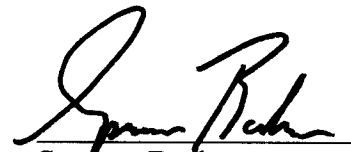
We strongly encourage you to conduct an investigation into these practices in order to ensure that American consumers know the truth about these website operations and the information they are disseminating.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to hearing from you.



Bob Goodlatte
Member of Congress

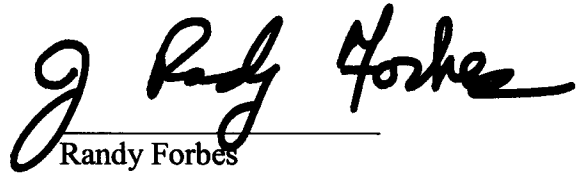
Sincerely,



Spencer Bachus
Member of Congress



Lamar Smith
Member of Congress



Randy Forbes
Member of Congress

cc: The Hon. Pamela Jones Harbour
The Hon. Jon Leibowitz
The Hon. William E. Kovacic
The Hon. J. Thomas Rosch
Attorney General Michael B. Mukasey