

Frequently Asked Questions

Isn't this little more than a transfer of wealth from poor to rich?

Actually, it's a transfer of wealth from Indiana to Kentucky. According to a study by Christian Capital Advisors, Kentuckians spent \$671 million in FY 2005 on casino gaming, at six riverboat locations in Illinois and Indiana. That generated some \$236 million in tax revenue to fund education in Indiana and pave roads in Illinois. When you factor in what was spent at West Virginia's Mountaineer Park, the number grows even larger.

Now weigh that against leveling the competitive playing field for an industry that supports 100,000 jobs and a \$4 billion economy. The \$671 million would stay in the state to keep those jobs and assure a healthy equine economy in the years to come.

How much do Kentucky families have to lose in order for the state and the wealthy horse industry to win?

Zero. They're already sending \$671 million across the river. We just want them to keep it at home. Critics will throw out an astronomical number to try and cloud the issue, but the simple answer is that if players stay at home rather than drive to Indiana or Illinois, there is absolutely no change in the economics, just in the geography.

Won't the push for expanded gaming result in legislative corruption around the horse industry like BOPTROT?

No. First of all, BOPTROT took place more than 15 years ago. Yes, it did involve the convictions of 15 former state legislators, but it also resulted in passage of some of the most strenuous and comprehensive ethics legislation in the nation—a model for other states.

What's disturbing, though, is that anyone would call into question the character of the men and women who serve us in the state legislature. They work hard on the policies and procedures that keep this state running.

What's even more disturbing is that some of the questions about corruption and ethical behavior are being raised by their own peers and colleagues in the House and Senate. This type of character assassination is completely unwarranted and is being used as a smokescreen to mask the real issue. Our industry is under siege and without legislative authority to move this measure forward, we will be Kentucky—the state formerly known as the Horse Capital of the World.