

May 9, 2017

To: Chairman Louis W. Blessing III
and Members of the Government Oversight and Accountability Committee

The Small Businesses of Fantasy Sports Trade Association (SBFSTA) represents small companies that offer fantasy sports contests online. The SBFSTA writes in support of HB132 as substituted. We believe the substitute gives some small companies a chance to operate profitably in Ohio. We pledge to continue working on the bill and with the Casino Control Commission to allow all small companies the opportunity to conduct their businesses in Ohio.

As with any small business, small fantasy contest providers are challenged by excessive fees and taxes as well as regulatory burden. The bill as introduced would have barred all small companies from operating in Ohio. The licensing fee structure and cost of compliance audits are too costly for small businesses.

As substituted, HB132 (Dever-McColley) would allow some small companies and start-ups the opportunity to participate in the Ohio market. But we note here that not all small companies will be able to sustain the burden of fees and regulatory costs.

SBFSTA will continue working with the legislature to improve the bill and with the Casino Control Commission to establish a regulatory framework that sets licensing fees at a reasonable level for small business.

We thank Representatives Dever and McColley for bringing this bill and its substitute, and for taking the time to meet with us and to understand and support the needs of small business. We encourage an Aye vote by members of the Government Oversight and Accountability Committee.

Sincerely,



Steve Brubaker

Executive Director

The Small Businesses of Fantasy Sports Trade Association

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