

SENATE TAXATION

EXHIBIT NO. 2DATE 4-5-05BILL NO. HB 89**Rich E. Miller**

From: BigB1922@aol.com
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2005 4:08 PM
To: RICHEMIL@msn.com
Subject: HB 89 Testimony

Rich, here is my testimony on HB 89. Thanks.

My name is Mark Ehli. I am president of Big B Bingo located in Billings.

Two years ago the 2003 Legislature debated and passed a bill that would allow all grandfathered locations the right to offer multi-game software. The legislature did this to encourage all locations to volunteer for the dial up. Big B Bingo purchased new equipment and signed agreements with the Gambling Control Division for nine of our machines to offer the multi-game software. As it turned out, an oversight was made in the bill language and Big B Bingo and one other bingo parlor was omitted from the legislation. This was not discovered until after our new equipment was up and running. The Attorney General, knowing the intent of the legislation, allowed us to continue to operate the nine new machines but refused our requests to sign more agreements until the 2005 Legislature considered the matter. So once again we are before the Legislature, this time asking for the omission to be corrected. Currently HB 89 includes language that would clarify this past oversight.

Passage of this bill is critical to my business. Without the ability to upgrade my gaming machines and contend with my competitors on equal grounds, the future is unpromising. Machine designers are no longer producing keno machines and poker machines, but rather the multi-game software. We currently have five keno machines that need replacing and six others that need new software, however Gambling Control will not allow us to make any changes until this matter is decided.

I urge you to pass HB 89 as written. Thank you.

If you have any questions I can be reached at 256-8238 or my e-mail address is Bigb1922@aol.com.

4/5/2005