



May 7, 2009

To: Members of the Minnesota Legislature
Re: HF 2370

Dear Members of the Minnesota Legislature,

I write today in strong support of House File 2370, legislation introduced this week by Representative Pat Garofalo (R-Farmington) that would circumvent the Minnesota Department of Public Safety's (DPS) attempt to block access to 200 online gaming sites in the North Star State.

The Department of Public Safety sent a letter last week to 11 national and regional Internet Service Providers (ISP's) instructing them to prohibit Minnesota residents from accessing almost 200 online gaming websites. To do this, they are requiring the ISP's to open and inspect the content of their customers internet transactions, including email. China's internet policies are not something that any state should look to emulate to any degree whatsoever. Yet this is precisely the slippery slope that the DPS's order leads down.

Furthermore, the Department of Public Safety's actions violate the principles that govern the internet, that it should remain open and free to legal transactions. Any argument that the DPS's order is done out of concern for public safety or wellbeing is patently disingenuous. If that were truly the case, the state would not have sanctioned the more than a dozen casinos throughout the state and would be looking to shut those down as well. The DPS's recent action is nothing more than an attempt to use the power of the state to protect a politically well-connected industry.

Minnesota state officials have many important matters to tend to right now, not the least of which is the current \$4.6 billion budget deficit. Yet despite the serious challenges facing the state, the DPS is looking to divert scarce state resources on a fatuous effort to censor the internet.

On behalf of Americans for Tax Reform, I urge you to prevent state meddling with internet service providers protect the privacy of thousands of law abiding Minnesotans that enjoy online gaming in the comfort of their own homes by passing HF 2370.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact ATR's State Affairs Manager, Patrick Gleason (202) 785-0266 or pgleason@atr.org.

Onward,

Grover Norquist

722 12th Street N.W.

Fourth Floor

Washington, D.C.

20005

T:(202)785-0266

F:(202)785-0261

www.atr.org