

August 19, 2010



FAMILY COUNCIL

414 S. Pulaski • Suite 2
Little Rock, AR 72201
(501) 375-7000

Dear Arkansas Lottery Commissioners:

I respectfully request that you voluntarily delay installation of any and all lottery machines until after the Lottery Oversight Committee and the Arkansas Legislature have had ample opportunity to consider concerns raised by members of the public and propose legislation regarding the machines and the rules that govern them at the next Arkansas General Assembly. There are four primary reasons I ask you to institute this delay.

First, there are serious deficiencies in the rules the Lottery Commission has proposed governing the lottery vending machines. Numerous statements have been made to the press by lottery representatives indicating that the vending machines will require players to swipe a driver's license in order to play, and that the machines will be under supervision by a store clerk or similar personnel, but neither of these requirements are explicitly stated in the rules the Commission is considering. Moreover, the rules use terms such as "continuous play" that are not defined in the rules, and may, therefore, open the door to future lottery vending machines that are no different than a slot machine. These rules and definitions rise to a level worthy of legislative attention, and should be clarified through amendments made to the Arkansas Lottery's enabling legislation rather than through rules and regulations handed down by the Lottery Commission.

Second, over 1,200 Arkansans sent comments to the Arkansas Lottery Commission requesting these machines not be installed. Because such a large number of citizens have engaged in the public discourse over the lottery vending machines, it is appropriate for the elected representatives of all Arkansans to have an opportunity to consider their constituents' concerns and wishes.

Third, many have voiced concerns that these machines will open the door to underage gambling in Arkansas. The Arkansas Legislature has a responsibility to ensure no action by Arkansas' government or its agencies harms its citizens. The Arkansas Legislature routinely studies the impact of legislation and government activity, and can better assess the impact lottery vending machines will have than any other group or agency.

Finally, no clearly articulated case has been made concerning the cost-benefit analysis of the machines and why they are necessary for Arkansas. Because it is important for all advantages and disadvantages to be weighed before moving ahead with a decision like this one, it is especially important that Arkansas' elected officials have ample opportunity to determine whether these machines do, in fact, represent the best interests of their constituents. Proponents and opponents of the machines will have equal opportunity to present their views to the Legislature, and the Legislature will be able to offer a clear decision on the matter.

If the Arkansas Lottery Commission genuinely believes that these machines represent the future of Arkansas' lottery and the best interest of Arkansans, then they should have nothing to fear from delaying installation of the machines until after the Arkansas Legislature has considered their proposal and offered a legislative decision on the machines and the rules that govern them.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Jerry Cox
President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerry Cox", is written over the typed name and title. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.