



SFU

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Ms. Shaila Anwar, Clerk
Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs
The Senate of Canada
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A4
Via Email : lcjc@sen.parl.gc.ca

Dear Members of the Committee:

Written Submission to the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs - Bill C-290, An Act to Amend the Criminal Code (sports betting)

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our comments to the Committee's study of Bill C-290, An Act to Amend the Criminal Code (sports betting). Simon Fraser University (SFU) has been following the progress of Bill C-290 and would like to share our significant concerns regarding the potential impacts on the integrity of athletic competition and our student athletes.

The Members of the Committee may not be aware that SFU was recently approved as the first international member of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). SFU is proud of this achievement and honoured to be a part of an organization that shares our emphasis on athletic excellence and high academic achievement from our student athletes. SFU's ability to participate in the NCAA Division II, Great Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC), provides numerous opportunities to the university and builds the profile of SFU and our community and industry partners throughout North America.

SFU administrators, coaches, and staff worked conscientiously over many years to become a member of the NCAA by demonstrating an institutional commitment to compliance control by modifying our business practices and processes to conform to NCAA bylaws and legislation. Of note in this context is the NCAA's bylaws regarding sports wagering. The NCAA feels strongly that all forms of single-sports wagering threaten the integrity of sports competition and hence the well-being of student-athletes and the athletics community.

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SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
ENGAGING THE WORLD

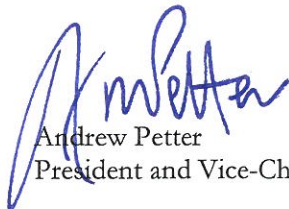
SFU shares these concerns and believes university sports should be appreciated for the benefits related to participation of student-athletes, coaches, and institutions in fair contests, not the amount of money wagered on the outcome of the competition. We feel it is critical to protect the reputation of university athletics and our student athletes who may be viewed by organized gambling as easy marks for information or point shaving.

As an active member of the NCAA, SFU is held responsible for the actions of all persons and organizations engaged in activities that promote our athletic interests. Therefore, the university must ensure that our coaches, student-athletes, faculty, and staff abide by all applicable NCAA regulations. Should Bill C-290 be adopted and the Province of British Columbia expand its lottery scheme to include single-game betting, SFU would be unable to host championship games under the NCAA's championships hosting policy. This would hugely disadvantage our teams and demoralize our student athletes and coaches. Although difficult to measure, as we would be the first-non-US institution to host championship games, local communities and business would also lose significant economic benefits gained from hosting up to seventeen regional and championship events.

We support the NCAA's position on sports wagering, which we feel threatens the well-being of student athletes and the integrity of competitive sport. The ability to bet on single-games increases the probability of outside influence on the outcome of competitions and places SFU's membership in the NCAA in jeopardy should student-athletes become involved in gambling on games. At the most practical level, SFU would be unable to host championship events—to the detriment of our student-athletes, their coaches and the opportunity to raise the profile of SFU and our local communities.

Please find attached a quick overview of the NCAA's position and policies on sports wagering. SFU encourages the Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs to carefully consider the opposition to Bill C-290 and its potential consequences to the integrity of competitive sport and our student athletes. Should members wish follow up on our submission, we would welcome the opportunity to appear before the committee in Ottawa on November 8th.

Yours sincerely,



Andrew Petter
President and Vice-Chancellor

AP/nr
Attachment

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Review of the NCAA position and policy:

The NCAA opposes all forms of legal and illegal sports wagering. The explosive growth of sports wagering has caused a noticeable increase in the number and severity of sports-wagering cases investigated by the NCAA. These cases involve point shaving, student-athletes serving as bookies, and Internet gambling, including wagering on their own institutions.

NCAA Policy

- NCAA rules do not allow student-athletes, athletics staff members, or conference office staff to engage in sports wagering on any level – university, professional or otherwise – in which the NCAA holds a championship.
- A student-athlete involved in sports wagering on the student-athlete's institution permanently loses all remaining regular-season and postseason eligibility in all sports.
- A student-athlete who is involved in any sports wagering activity (university or professional sports) through Internet gambling, bookmaker, a parlay card or any other method employed by organized gambling, will be ineligible for all regular-season and postseason competition for at least one year.
- No predetermined or non-predetermined session of an NCAA championship may be conducted in a state/province with legal wagering that is based on single-game betting on the outcome of any event in a sport in which the NCAA conducts a championship.