

# ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES *of* OREGON

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To the Editor:

In last Sunday's *Oregonian* editorial "Figuring Oregon's take from a private casino," important aspects of the "public benefits" question were not addressed. What is the impact of expanded gaming on people struggling with gambling addictions? What is the impact of a private urban casino on the surrounding community?

In the chase for revenue, we're forgetting those Oregonians who are, or are at risk of becoming, gambling addicts. The gambling industry is well aware that these people are key to their revenue and profits. Also not noted are the costs to local communities, including increased law enforcement, traffic and crime.

On top of all these concerns, gaming revenues are now in flux and not producing the anticipated revenues. Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon reiterates its call for the state to get back to the business of resource restructuring and decreasing our dependency on lottery and gambling-related revenue. It is time to reduce, not increase, ties to the gaming industry. At the end of the day, the public costs far exceed the benefits.

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## MEMBER DENOMINATIONS

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Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon ■ Episcopal Diocese of Oregon ■ Evangelical Lutheran Church in America ■ Greek Orthodox Church ■ Presbyterian Church (USA)—Presbytery of the Cascades  
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) ■ Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Portland ■ United Church of Christ ■ United Methodist Church ■ Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches