



Washington, DC—Alongside professional poker players, Congressman Israel (D-NY) vowed to fight for the passage of legislation that would yield billions of dollars in federal revenue through legalizing and regulating internet gambling. Israel was joined by players Chris Ferguson, Chad Brown and Victor Ramdin.

“To me, this is a civil liberties issue,” explained Congressman Israel. “We should not be spending federal law enforcement dollars so that the government can unnecessarily regulate what individuals do in their private lives. A time of record debt is not the time to force an industry underground that could yield billions of dollars in federal revenue each year.”

Earlier this year, Israel co-authored an Op-Ed in the New York Post arguing that the ban on internet gambling misuses federal law enforcement hours and deprives the federal government of millions of dollars of lost revenue. Internet gambling is a \$13 billion and growing global industry. According to a study conducted by the Poker Players Alliance, legalization and regulation of internet poker would yield approximately \$2.3-3.3 billion in federal revenues each year.

Israel is an original co-sponsor of the Internet Gambling Regulation & Enforcement Act. The legislation, introduced by Financial Services Chairman Barney Frank, would establish a federal regulatory and enforcement framework under which Internet gambling operators could obtain licenses authorizing them to accept bets and wagers from individuals in the U.S. Operators in turn would be required to maintain effective protections against underage gambling, compulsive gambling, money laundering and fraud and to enforce prohibitions or restrictions on types of gambling prohibited by state, Indian Tribes, and sporting leagues.