

News Article

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Video Lottery Helps State

Letter to the Editor

Recently, there has been a considerable amount of press coverage regarding the Limited Video Lottery Industry and those who play. In this coverage, some in the Wood County Commission have clearly condemned the Limited Video Lottery Industry.

As the Executive Director of the West Virginia Amusement & Limited Video Lottery Operators Association, I ask you to take a look around and recognize the good things that have been the result of the revenue generated for Wood County from the Limited Video Lottery Industry:

a \$20,000 down payment on new police cruisers for the Wood County Sheriff's Department

\$50,000 to volunteer fire departments

a \$5,000 grant to the Juliana Street historical district

a \$22,930 plan to reimburse county employees for use of a fitness facility

the Promise Scholarship Fund, funded entirely by Limited Video

Lottery revenues, that has sent 246 Wood County high school students (the second highest number of recipients in the state) to college since its inception in 2001.

All in all, Wood County received more than \$260,000 in Limited Video Lottery proceeds just this last fiscal year. The county commission and local municipalities have allocated that money to do good work in the community. These same individuals have received very positive press and stood in the limelight while distributing goods purchased with Limited Video Lottery funds.

It is time to end the hypocrisy. The Limited Video Lottery Industry is legitimate. It is owned, operated and regulated by the State of West Virginia and it generates significant revenues that directly benefit our communities.

Civic leaders, please consider the video lottery machine players may be your friends, your neighbors, and those who voted for you. They choose to play and, as a result, generate the revenues you allocate to benefit your community. Live and let live and everyone wins!

Our research conducted by the Marshall University Center for Business and Economic Research, shows that:

the age of the LVL player is diverse

the income of the LVL player is diverse

only one of three West Virginians would support a political candidate that would reduce or limit their ability to participate in gaming activities

West Virginians are not willing to pay more taxes to offset the revenue generated by the LVL Industry

Limited Video Lottery is a form of entertainment that to date has generated more than four hundred million dollars for the State of West Virginia since the LVL Act of 2001.

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