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RESOLUTION SUPPORTING INTERNET RESPONSIBLE GAMING STANDARDS

(January 10, 2014)

Sponsored by Rep. Jim Waldman (FL)

WHEREAS, Delaware and New Jersey have legalized online casino games, Nevada has legalized online poker, multiple lotteries offer some form of online gaming, and numerous other states are considering the legalization of online gaming; and

WHEREAS, the expansion of online gaming, like land-based gaming, in one state can have social and economic effects that reach beyond state borders; and

WHEREAS, the National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG) in 2012 developed Internet Responsible Gaming Standards to assist states wishing to create a comprehensive public health strategy regarding gaming addiction and Internet gambling; and

WHEREAS, the National Center for Responsible Gaming (NCRG) in 2013 has conducted research that addresses best practices for responsible gaming over the Internet; and

WHEREAS, the North American Association of State and Provincial Lotteries (NASPL), representing all government-sanctioned lotteries in North America, and having a robust responsible gaming committee; and

WHEREAS, the NCPG, the NCRG, and NASPL continue to analyze online problem gaming standards in light of new Internet gaming-related legislation and regulation, as well as technological evolution; and

WHEREAS, the interactive structure of the Internet provides an opportunity to create informed consumers with access to a variety of information designed to encourage safe choices and discourage unsafe behavior, including through setting personal limits and self-excluding;

WHEREAS, the National Council of Legislators from Gaming States (NCLGS) strongly supports the proper regulation of Internet gaming; and

WHEREAS, NCLGS has numerous concerns relating to Internet gaming, in the areas of public policy and the protection of state residents; and

WHEREAS, NCLGS supports public awareness regarding problem gaming and mitigating potential negative social consequences of gaming thorough education, research, prevention, and treatment programs;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT NCLGS supports the efforts of the NCPG, the NCRG, NASPL, and other similar entities to research and develop Internet Responsible Gaming Standards in order to facilitate discussions among stakeholders and support sound policy decisions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT NCLGS urges state legislators, regulators, and experts in the problem gaming field to work together to develop strong Internet responsible gaming programs in coordination with any efforts to enact Internet gaming legislation; and

FINALLY, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be sent to state gaming legislators, regulators, and governors in states considering online gaming.