

Housing Gaming Oversight Committee

May 7, 2009

Testimony of

Sherman Smith, Owner, Smith Amusements Inc.

President, Pennsylvania Amusement & Music Machine Association

In 1953, Sherman Smith Sr., was self employed as a jeweler in Harrisburg, PA. He also worked part time for an amusement company maintaining pinball machines and jukeboxes. In June of 1954 with the encouragement and help of an owner of a distributing company, Sherman left the amusement company and started Smith Amusements. With one machine he saw his dream grow to several machines by years end. Making payments and working very long hours, he finally closed his jewelers business and devoted his time to building Smith Amusements stronger.

Soon Sherman was able to hire an employee, making it a little easier on himself and his family. By the late 60's his reputation of service was well known in central Pennsylvania. The building he rented in Harrisburg was quickly outgrown. Then suddenly he lost his employee to another company in the Harrisburg area.

In 1969, he bought a property in Camp Hill, and hired a new service employee, to keep the business going. Then in the summer of 1972, his oldest son Sherman Jr. joined him. Each year was better than the last, due to keeping his word of giving the best service. In 1979 his youngest son joined the family business and together the three family members and one employee, kept the dream going.

In 1983 Sherman Smith Sr. passed away, but his dream did not. His sons, Sherman and Doug, and two employees have kept this small business of 55 years going. Even with the extremely tough economic times today, Smith Amusements Inc., still keeps Dad's word of the best service going. Over the years Smith Amusements has helped many organizations with donations and help. And will hopefully be able to do so in the future.

I have served on the Board of Director of our state association, Pennsylvania Amusement and Music Machine Association, for 12 years. I was honored by my peers and elected President in January of this year-2009. I do not want to be known as the last President of PAMMA! Please allow honest, hardworking vendors like Smith Amusements to play a part in legalization of video gaming.

Sherman Smith
Owner, Smith Amusements
President, Pennsylvania Amusement and Music Machine Association