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MISSISSIPPI GAMING COMMISSION

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Mississippi Gaming Commission Issues Cease and Desist Letters to Illegal Online Gaming Operators

July 25, 2024 - The Mississippi Gaming Commission has issued cease and desist letters to five online gambling sites found operating illegally in Mississippi. Letters were issued electronically and by mail on July 24 to companies operating through sites Bovado, MyBookie, BetWhale, BetUS and Betonline.

“Our laws are clear that casino style gaming and sports wagering are not allowed online in Mississippi, outside of a licensed casino,” MGC Executive Director Jay McDaniel said. “Our legislature affirmed this past session that statewide mobile and online wagering is not something the state wants to legalize at this time. The MGC will aggressively pursue both domestic and offshore illegal operators, and I will seek assistance from our state and federal law enforcement partners to do so. Companies like those put on notice today, mislead our residents by claiming to be legal outlets, when in fact they operate illegally and without providing any tax revenue or other tangible benefit to Mississippi.”

The cease and desist letters put the companies on notice that they are, at a minimum, in violation of the Mississippi Gaming Control Act and numerous Mississippi criminal laws, which state that all casino gaming and sports wagering in the State of Mississippi must be authorized by law, licensed and regulated. Additionally, these clear violations of state law also implicate federal laws related to online sports wagering, including the Federal Wire Act of 1961, the Illegal Gambling Business Act, and the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act of 2006.

The Mississippi Gaming Commission is committed to protecting the citizens of Mississippi and its visitors by carrying out its mission to ensure gaming is conducted honestly and competitively, and that gaming is free from criminal and corruptive elements. The MGC will continuously monitor and pursue illegal gaming sites, and warns players in the state that any casino or sports wagering conducted online or by mobile device could result in prosecution, or asset forfeiture of gaming funds.

If you would like to report illegal gambling in the state of Mississippi please contact the Mississippi Gaming Commission at 601-576-3800

If you have any questions about what constitutes illegal gaming in Mississippi, you may visit the FAQ page at our website at www.msgamingcommission.com