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Interest Group Profile

What is an interest group? An interest group is a group of similar people that try and influence certain parts of politics, elected officials, or certain policies of government in a way so that it helps themselves. As most people know all controversial and potentially dangerous industries have interest groups to persuade the public and elected officials to join their side. Gambling and gaming is one of these industries. Many of the gambling and gaming regulations are made at the national level; so most interest groups of this kind contribute to both of the parties. This paper will justify the effectiveness of the Las Vegas Sands by analyzing the group's, lobbying activities, political aims, finances, and how much money they spend to voice their opinions to which offices.

Though the Las Vegas Sands is a huge for-profit company, it is a company that also acts as an interest group. The Las Vegas Sands is a company that owns many of the world's finest travel destinations. Basically they are a company/interest group that wants to do nothing but support gaming and gambling so that nothing in there world changes. The more regulation of casinos, the more money they lose; and that is a catastrophe in an industry based around money. The bottom line is that they don't want to gamble and let politics do whatever they want with

their precious industry. So they pay as much as they need to, to have nothing changed from out from under their feet.

They are such a big and wealthy company that they have actually hired 7 different lobbying firms and they now have 11 different lobbyists. It is quite obvious what exactly these lobbyists lobby for; the acceptance and promotion of Gaming, Gambling, and Casinos. They have only lobbied for two bills in congress, both are named "Restoration of America's Wire Act," one was sent to the House of Representatives (H.R. 4301) and one was sent to the senate (S. 2159). Basically this new bill amends a bill that was passed in 2011 about online sports gambling, it was clarifying amendment, which states along the lines that it is not only for sports but for all online gambling.

The Las Vegas Sands, so far in 2014, have contributed a total of \$676,950. Breaking this number down, they contributed \$158,600 directly to candidate's campaigns (Rep. Joe Heck \$44,000), \$467,350 to the democratic and republican parties, \$11,000 to Leadership PACs, and \$40,000 to 527 different gaming and gambling committees. Although they have contributed to both democrats and republicans, this organization supports republicans very strongly, almost entirely. But they do this so that everyone will support Gaming and Gambling. They donate to PACs, Political Action Committees, so that these "friends in high places" can distribute funds for campaigning candidates, and ultimately better the Las Vegas Sands being. Also, they donate money to separate committees so that they can advertise to the people, which forms public opinions, and that helps the candidates support Gaming and Gambling.

In prior elections, the whole sum of all interest groups and businesses have leaned more towards the democratic side. But recently, times have changed and the popularity of the

republicans is going up. This means that businesses and interest groups are contributing more than ever before to the republicans. The democrats used to overwhelmingly lead in this issued area, but the republicans have brought it back so that it is almost a dead even split down the middle; 50-50.

They are the top contributor of funds of any gaming and gambling interest groups, this makes it so that they can persuade many politicians and political figures, because our system revolves around money. Plus, it always helps when the whole spectrum of interest groups donate to both democrats and republicans. This makes it so that you have support on both sides of the system, and it assures you that your voice will be heard. And lastly, it helps tremendously that they can donate to smaller committees to help spread the word of gaming and gambling on a more local level. This gives the people an opinion that their representative will need to follow in order to be elected. So, overall I think that they are effective and very influential.

Works Cited

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