

Officials: Concerns about pro sports, casinos 'widely overblown'

By J.D. Morris, Las Vegas Sun

The casino industry's chief lobbying voice in Washington, D.C., sees an opportunity in reports this week that the NHL is ready to grant an expansion team to Las Vegas.

For Geoff Freeman, president of the American Gaming Association, a major league hockey franchise in Las Vegas will offer further proof of two things: broad acceptance of gambling and another reason to eliminate the federal ban on sports betting in most states.

Both causes are of great importance to his organization.

Freeman told reporters on a conference call today that the apparently impending arrival of Las Vegas' first major league sports franchise "reflects a rapidly evolving view of gaming as an important, mainstream segment of the broader economy."

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