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Court Rules Updated Sweepstakes Software is Legal

Raleigh, NC (April 4, 2013) – A Catawba County court acquitted a cafe employee charged with violating North Carolina Statue {14-306.4} based on the cafe’s use of a pre-reveal system. This is the first criminal case brought against sweepstakes providers in North Carolina since the software was updated in response to the December 2012 North Carolina Supreme Court ruling.

“We are pleased that the judge agreed with our position – that the updated pre-reveal software does not violate NC statue,” said Lisa Dubs, attorney for the café employee.

“In our opinion the court reached the correct decision. Unfortunately, many North Carolinians have lost their job over the last few months due to legal confusion,” said Jim Harris of the Coalition for Electronic Sweepstakes.

The Coalition hopes this ruling along with the introduction of House Bill 547 will remove any legal uncertainty. Small businesses and employees have been hurt by the lack of legal clarity. Electronic sweepstakes employs thousands of North Carolinians directly and thousands more indirectly. It also provides revenues for both the cities and counties where sweepstakes operate. Currently, local governments receive thousands and in some cases hundreds of thousands in license fees from electronic sweepstakes cafes that go to fund critical local government services.

“The Coalition is eager to work with the General Assembly to pass H 547. It provides for strict rules and regulations with state oversight that preserves these jobs, maintains and creates additional economic benefits and provides much need tax revenue to the state of North Carolina,” said Jim Harris.

For more information on the legislation, the jobs at stake and the economic benefits of electronic sweepstakes visit www.KeepItLegalNC.com.

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