

**GOP Congressman John Campbell of Irvine** is no gambler. He says he can't even remember what's a straight and a flush **"and which one's better."**

But he does support allowing Americans to do what they want to do. **"And Americans clearly like to gamble. And they would like to do it on the Internet."**

Online gaming is illegal, but many people gamble on offshore websites or find poker buddies to play in cyberspace.

**Campbell** supports a measure that would make all this legal -- with consumer protections. For example, he says, **"when gambling on an outside site, how do you know they pay anybody any winnings?"**

**Campbell**, a vocal anti-tax man, does support imposing a tax on Internet gambling. He calls it **"revenue that won't be increasing taxes on anybody. If you don't want to pay the tax, don't gamble."**

Democratic Congressman Joe Baca opposes the measure. He says there aren't enough protections to keep children and gambling addicts off the sites. Baca's district is home to Indian gaming casinos.

**Campbell** doesn't think online casinos pose a threat to traditional gambling sites. **"There's an experiential thing about going to Las Vegas or Atlantic City,"**

he says.

**"There's an experiential thing for a poker player to look somebody in the eye. So I don't think this is going to put the brick and mortar gambling establishments out of business."**

The House Financial Services Committee is scheduled to debate amendments to the bill tomorrow.