



HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3012
SENATE FINANCE AND TAXATION COMMITTEE
MARCH 15, 2021

TESTIMONY OF CYNTHIA C. MONTEAU, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Madam Chair and members of the Committee, my name is Cynthia Monteau, I am the Executive Director of the United Tribes Gaming Association (UTGA). I come before you today in opposition of House Concurrent Resolution 3012 (HCR 3012), a resolution that proposes to amend the Constitution of North Dakota through a referendum vote seeking to authorize internet live poker in the state and licensed and regulated by the state.

The five tribes of North Dakota formed UTGA, to promote, protect and advocate for tribal gaming and economic development.

The Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA) authorized casino gambling on our reservations, provided a regulatory framework, and an oversight body called the National Indian Gaming Commission. Additionally, IGRA, provided a statutory basis for Indian Tribes to operate gaming activities as a means for Tribes to:

- 1) Promote tribal economic development;
- 2) Self-sufficiency; and
- 3) Strong tribal governments

Gaming to Tribes is literally for our livelihood, not simply entertainment and convenience gambling.



Tribal casinos are economic engines in our communities, we create 2,000 FTEs (full-time equivalents) for both tribal members and non-Indians alike. We provide health care benefits to those who may not otherwise receive it. We contribute 300 million annually to the state economy as we purchase goods and services from area businesses; for instance, laundry and cleaning services, meat and produce, electricians, plumbers, and heating and air conditioning services. The state also benefits from taxes paid by individual income taxpayers and businesses. Any expansion of gaming in the state, outside of tribal gaming, negatively impacts the economies of both the Tribes and the State.

Tribal gaming provides a source of jobs for individuals who otherwise would be unemployed and it is an anchor for jobs in other sectors such as tourism, education, and healthcare which may not be available, but for a tribal casino. HCR 3012 is an expansion of gaming outside of tribal casinos – which we are adamantly opposed. We urge a Do Not pass of HCR 3012.

Thank you, Madam Chair.