

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing our organization to submit written testimony in reference to HB 1497.

My name is Becky Nelson and I am the gaming manager for Veteran’s Club of Kenmare, Inc. We strongly encourage a **Do Not Pass** on HB 1497. If this bill were to pass, our charity would have to relinquish 12 of our 22 sites. We presently provide charitable gaming in 16 communities. This not only would be devastating to our organization, it would also be devastating to all of the rural communities we serve.

Currently there are over 300 charities licensed to conduct gaming in the state of North Dakota. If I have done my research correctly, a Do Pass on HB 1497 would affect approximately ten (10) charities who presently have over ten (10) sites.

Our organization covers a 250 mile radius around the Kenmare area, which we are located out of. There is not another gaming organization in this area, other than one in Mohall, of which that organization is not interested in expanding or traveling the distance we do.

The cities that we are conducting gaming in rely on the charitable gaming donations to fund numerous activities and causes in their community. If our organization was limited to ten (10) sites, we would, of course, select our most profitable sites, leaving cities without any gaming.

In the year 2022, \$1,225,548 in donations was distributed in these 15 rural communities, and \$472.263 in donations in the city of Kenmare.

I urge you to vote Do Not Pass on HB 1497. Please do this for rural North Dakota and all the entities that rely on these donations to operate such as fire departments, ambulance services, schools, churches, seniors, food pantries, veteran’s programs, etc.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Veteran’s Club of Kenmare Sites

City Limits	
Beer Bobs	
Kenmare Memorial Hall	
Kenmare Country Club	Kenmare
Hilltop Bar	Ross
Beach Bar	
Five Spot	Stanley
Palermo Bar	Palermo
Club Ray	
Northside Tavern	Ray
Turley’s Pub	Powers Lake
Stampeders	Noonan
Smokey Bonz	Portal
109	Lignite

The Joint
Hoots
Double J's
Grano Lakeside Lounge
Z Bar
Hunter's Den
The Riv
Country Mouse Bar

Bowbells
Mohall
Grano
Carpio
Foxholm
Blaisdell
Mouse River Park