



Benefiting North Dakota Communities through Charitable Gaming

Testimony in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 2334

March 20, 2025

Chairman Longmuir and Members of the House Political Subdivisions Committee:

I'm Scott Meske, representing the North Dakota Gaming Alliance and on behalf of the Members of the NDGA, we offer our support for Senate Bill 2334.

SB 2334 corrects an oversight from last session when many of us worked on the definition of "alcohol beverage establishment" for the purposes of charitable gaming. Taprooms, by definition, are in a different part of the Century Code than was referred to by the legislation passed (SB 2304). When this bill was introduced in January, there were 9 taprooms licensed in North Dakota under NDCC 5-01-21. Since then, we've lost two taprooms along with two brewpubs. It's a tough time to be in the craft beverage industry. While allowing charitable gaming will not solely save these small businesses, it might help. By any stretch of the commonsense definition, taprooms are alcohol beverage establishments.

These small businesses are an integral part of their communities. If you peruse their social media pages, you'll find they regularly are giving back to their communities and the organizations within those communities. This is in no way an attempt to expand the definition we crafted last session, but to correct an oversight.

Thank you to Senator Gerhardt, who has two taprooms in his district, for bringing this bill forward.

We respectfully ask for a DO PASS on Senate Bill 2334.