



HOUSE BILL 1162
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 Bill 1162, a bill that allows organizations to sell raffle tickets online over the internet and to accept electronic payments.

The five tribes of North Dakota formed UTGA, to promote, protect and advocate for tribal gaming and economic development. Tribal casinos are economic engines in our communities by creating jobs - jobs for both tribal members and non-Indians alike. The impacts of tribal gaming go far beyond the doors of our tribal casinos. Tribal gaming provides essential services to our reservation communities, funds tribal operations, and promotes economic development. In addition to, building local economies in the State by purchasing goods and services from area businesses; for instance, laundry and cleaning services, meat and produce, electricians, plumbers, and heating and air conditioning services. Tribal gaming generates over \$300 million for our economy in the State and about 3,000 FTEs (full-time equivalents). 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.



The amount of disposable income in the State is limited and diverting tribal gaming revenue through activities of convenience such as the sale of raffle tickets online, will impact the revenue generated by tribal casinos which in turn impacts jobs and economic development for both our reservation communities and the communities throughout the State where we purchase goods and services for our operations. It is for these reasons that we urge a DO NOT pass of House Bill 1162.

Thank you, Madam Chair.