



**HOUSE BILL 1389
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 as an Opponent of House Bill 1389, a bill that compounds the already detrimental impact to casino revenue by allowing internet live poker, if supported by the voters after a legislative referral.

There is only so much disposable income in the state and electronic pull tabs have already generated \$1.6 billion in gross proceeds from August 2018 thru December 2021. The electronic pull tab laws allowed manufacturers of these machines to capitalize on the benefits to the tune of \$65 million of the \$1.6 billion generated. Manufacturers took so much of this revenue because the charities did not have the expertise, similarly, HB1389 allows the attorney general's office to contract with a private entity for the development and implementation of internet live poker. This could be money going out of state, similar to the e-tab revenue; while ignoring the \$300 million that casinos generate in the state's economy. In addition, this bill creates a new commission and will require a new division within the Attorney General's office when this office currently does not have the ability to regulate electronic pull tabs.

Gaming is in most cases our sole source of revenue, jobs, and economic development; it is not simply entertainment and convenience gambling. HB 1389 is an expansion of gaming outside of tribal casinos – which we are adamantly opposed. We urge a Do Not pass of HB 1389.

Thank you, Madam Chair.