



**SENATE BILL 2309
SENATE FINANCE AND TAXATION COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 1, 2021**

TESTIMONY OF CYNTHIA C. MONTEAU, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mr. Chairman 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 a Proponent with Amendments of Senate Bill 2309, a bill that creates a charitable gaming operating fund and continuing appropriation for gambling disorder prevention and cities and counties.

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.

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 – negative impacts to tribal gaming is a negative impact throughout the State. 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.



We understand the impact the electronic pull tab machines have on the local economies of the state and carving out a portion of 10% of an operating fund for cities and counties with licensed organizations who are conducting games within the city limits or within each county makes sense and it also makes sense to carve out a portion of 10% of the operating fund for tribes that have a state-wide impact, our casinos generate over \$300 million for our economy in the State and about 3,000 FTEs (full-time equivalents).

We also are very concerned with the regulation of the electronic pull tab machines and carving out money for the Attorney General's office to have the ability to implement regulation of the machines is sorely needed.

Finally, removing the ability for continuous play with credits from the electronic pull tab machines is comparable to how players play paper pull tabs.

It is for these reasons that we urge a DO pass with amendments to Senate Bill 2309.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.