Testimony in Opposition to
SENATE BILL NO. 2315
Senate Finance & Taxation Committee
February 2, 2021

Madam Chair Jessica Bell, Senate Finance and Taxation Committee members, for the record my name is Rick Stenseth. I am a Gaming Manager for two local organizations in Fargo that both conduct charitable gaming (Northern Prairie Performing Arts (NPPA) aka Fargo-Moorhead Community Theatre & Team Makers Club). I am submitting this testimony through our NPPA lobbyist, Todd D. Kranda, an attorney with the Kelsch Ruff Kranda Nagle & Ludwig Law Firm in Mandan.

NPPA is a North Dakota non-profit entity that has a stated mission to provide live theatrical and education opportunities which enrich and engage the greater community. Programs supported by NPPA include theatre performances and children's instruction courses in live theatre, main stage productions, children's productions, senior adult theatre, and workshops. NPPA relies heavily on charitable gaming as a funding source for various services provided to North Dakota citizens.

NPPA is opposed to SB 2315 which is a very simple bill that in effect would allow the tribes to move their tribal casino operations off tribal lands. SB 2315, at page 2 lines 1-7, removes the restriction currently in statute that states, in relevant part, as follows: "The compact may not authorize gaming to be conducted by an Indian tribe at any off-reservation location not permitted under tribal-state gaming compact in effect on August 1, 1997."

SB 2315 creates the possibility for the tribes to negotiate a compact allowing the tribe to build and operate casinos in major cities across North Dakota. NPPA does not support the removal of the restriction from off reservation locations. Tribal casinos should not be allowed to operate at any location within North Dakota. This is not anything that anyone involved in charitable gaming activity wants to see happen.

In summary, SB 2315 is a major expansion of tribal gaming activity in North Dakota. NPPA urges your opposition to **SB 2315** and respectfully requests a **Do Not Pass** recommendation.