



February 6, 2023

Sixty-eighth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

Re: House Bill No. 1296
53-06.1-03 Approval for Gaming Site Authorization

Chairman Louser and Committee Members:

I am submitting written testimony opposing HB1296. This bill would require cities to approve gaming operators without any consideration of what operators would be best for our cities.

In Williston our charities support a wide range of community projects. Often when the request is for a large donation, that pledge is made over a number of years. For example, the Williston Community Pool asked a charity for \$250,000.00 and it was approved with yearly payments. If our charities have no assurance that they will have gaming sites in future years, there is no possibility of them approving large requests since they would have no ability to fund those requests.

Allowing cities to have approval of sites goes hand in hand with the city's ability to issue liquor licenses and a wide variety of other ordinances that regulate the liquor industry.

Right now, our charities are run by local boards that understand the needs of our communities. If we have to approve any charity, there is no assurance that an outside charity would have the best interests of our community when considering requests.

I would appreciate a no vote on HB1296.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Howard Klug". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Howard" and last name "Klug" clearly legible.

Howard Klug, President
Board of City Commissioners