



Benefiting North Dakota Communities through Charitable Gaming

February 8, 2023

Testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill 1484

Chairman Louser and Members of the Industry, Business and Labor Committee:

I'm Scott Meske, representing the North Dakota Gaming Alliance and on behalf of the 152 Members of the NDGA, we offer our support for House Bill 1484.

ND Gaming Alliance represents all facets of the charitable gaming industry. Veteran and Fraternal Organizations, Charities, Hospitality, Manufacturers, and Distributors. Since the laws governing charitable gaming were created, charities and the hospitality industry have worked together under a microscope. The licensed organization must petition the local governing body WITH the proposed gaming site. It is a joint effort, ultimately with the goal of providing valuable charitable donations within that community.

House Bill 1484 does not define what is or isn't an "alcohol beverage establishment." We believe once definitions are placed in statute, there will always be more carve outs or more requests for exceptions. Today, when a properly licensed charity enters into a lease agreement with a potential gaming site, the local governing body is the final site authority. This process has worked well. It is the local governing body who knows what is best for the community, what makes sense and what is proper for them.

We strongly support the process of selecting charitable gaming sites as it stands today. And we are ardent supporters of the local governing body's ability to make the final determination *where* charitable gaming should be conducted in their own communities, provided all of the proper licenses are current.

The 320 charities and 900-plus gaming sites in North Dakota have been operating under the rules established by this body, and in the last biennium contributed more than \$73 million into North Dakota's community causes because of charitable gaming.



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The North Dakota Gaming Alliance respectfully asks that HB 1484 be given a DO PASS recommendation from this Committee. Let's make it crystal clear to communities, charities and gaming sites and allow true local control to be exercised in charitable gaming.

Thank you.