

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing our organization to submit written testimony in reference to HB 1497.

My name is Kyle Vetter. I am the gaming manager for American Foundation for Wildlife. We strongly encourage a **DO NOT PASS** on HB 1497. If this Bill passes, our charity would have to give up 7 of our 17 gaming sites. We presently provide charitable gaming in 17 communities in western and central North Dakota with an outer linear perimeter of 700 miles, including very rural communities. The loss of these sites would not only be a substantial to our organization, but it would also negatively impact all the rural communities we serve and their surrounding areas.

The sites that we are conducting gaming in rely on the charitable gaming donations to fund many activities and causes in their communities. If our organization was limited to ten (10) sites, we would select our most profitable sites, which are located in the larger cities; leaving the small rural cities and communities without the opportunity to have gaming in their local establishments and the access to the donations to support their local needs.

In 2022, we donated \$818,585 to the communities for kids activities, schools, rural fire departments, rural ambulances, police departments, seniors, food pantries, make a wish opportunities, veteran organizations, medical funds, etc.

I urge you to vote **DO NOT PASS** on HB 1497. Please do this for rural North Dakota and all the entities that rely on these donations to operate and provide services locally.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.