

March 27, 2023

HB 1387

Senate Judiciary Committee

Chairman and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

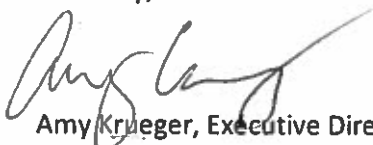
I am Amy Krueger, Executive Director of the Williston Convention and Visitor Bureau, Inc. a charitable gaming organization. Our Organization currently has 8 sites, 6 of those sites have E-tabs in them. Our sites range from 3 machines to 7 machines in them. This Bill would increase our site rent by \$4,500 a month / \$12,600 a quarter. While I am not opposed to a rent increase, in its current language this bill would more than double this portion of our rent with the Bar Assist Language that has been included. With the current language the base rent is 2x to 4x per machine depending how many machines you currently have and with adding the bar assist per machine it could raise that even higher.

While the rent language does say an up to amount, in most communities if max allowable rent is not offered, the charity would not have a gaming site. I also think this would encourage Bar owners to want to have the max number of machines allowed. That increases the charities cost to do business but does not guarantee the increase of the volume of the business being done. Just providing more machines does not mean they will be played.

Charitable Gaming Organizations are intended to be Charitable – giving back money into our communities to support the different causes we represent. We are currently held to 60/40% Operating cost. Where we are supposed to try to keep those Operating cost within a 60% Margin – in today's economy – the last three quarters I have been over my 60% operating margin and my staff will tell you I have the lowest paid gaming staff in Williston. While I have still been able to make my trust payments it's tight and doubling rent without any wiggle room being given else where would not be possible in our current structure. For Mid to smaller size charitable gaming organizations this would diminish our ability to remain charities and give those valuable dollars back into our communities. While yes raising the percentage does help make ends meet, it also takes away from the root cause of why we operate Charitable Gaming – giving the charitable causes less money.

I would ask you to oppose or amend rent levels in HB 1387.

Sincerely,


Amy Krueger, Executive Director