

Dear Representative,

My name is Thomas Grzadzieleski. I am president of the Drayton Curling Club in Drayton, ND which is the oldest Curling Club in ND established in 1901. I started curling in Drayton when I was 13 years old, I saw an open house flyer on the grocery store window, the club welcomed me and my friends with open arms and gave me an opportunity to pick up a lifelong sport. I am writing to you not only on behalf of our small organization, but also as a member of the community, to express my concerns with the Senate passing SB 2035 which would prohibit an organization such as ours from conducting charitable gaming.

The Drayton Curling Club is a non-profit organization that has spent the past 28 years taking care of children and families not only in our community, but our neighboring communities as well – all made possible through excess revenue received from gaming. In 2023 and 2024 we were able to donate approximately \$87,000. \$30,000 alone was given back to park districts for maintaining pools and playground equipment. \$5000 was given to backpack programs. Thousands have been donated to families during benefits to help cover medical expenses. We have been fortunate to be able to help cover the cost for our youth to be involved in extracurricular programs and been able to donate to prom fundraisers, Christmas giving trees and even a neighboring county's library. In our 28 years of donating, we have given over \$1,000,000 back to our surrounding communities.

Eliminating an organization such as ours will not limit gaming. Another organization will step in with no guarantee where those excess funds will be donated. Simply put, without gaming, our club and many organizations that depend on us for donations will not survive.

Many of you may not know, but curling is the state sport of North Dakota. Most recently, the Drayton Curling Club was able to host 5 teams, and their families, for the U14 (under 14) Dakota Territory State Championship. Youth events like these are happening all over the State of North Dakota. These events are costly and don't bring in a lot of revenue for any club, but through gaming, we are able to provide another recreational opportunity in our community and bring in individuals that otherwise wouldn't be here.

I would like to see amateur athletic/community recreation organizations that maintain recreation facilities that are open to the public and that share excess gaming revenue with other non-profit and charitable organizations in their communities included in the list of eligible public-spirited entities.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Thomas Grzadzieleski
Drayton Curling Club
President