

Testimony
To the
Education Committee
On
SB 2035

Good morning, Chairman Heinert and members of the education committee. My name is Sam Miller, and I am the Vice President of the Ridge Runners Snowmobile Club.

I am here today to testify on behalf of the Ridge Runners Snowmobile Club in opposition to SB2035.

Ridge Runners Snowmobile Club is based out of Fordville, a town of about 200 residents in northeast ND. We are a small town that does big things. Our club has 130 active members and was established over 30 years ago. We have utilized gaming for the last 25 years to raise money for the snowmobile trail system upon exhaustion of state funds. Gaming proceeds are used to maintain the trail system, and any remaining funds are donated back into local communities. None of the gaming funds financially benefit our officers or members.

Our youth are important to us; thus, they are the focus of our gaming fund donations:

- Every year we host a snowmobile ride for over 100 kids from all over the region
- We built a warming shelter for a local ice-skating rink, which has been used way more than any one of us expected
- We've donated to several local playgrounds
- We've sponsored field trips and after prom parties for school kids annually
- We've provided funds for kids' snowmobile, dirt bike and bicycle races
- Every year we give several scholarships to high school seniors
- We support local sports acceleration programs for our youth
- We have donated to daycares, the BIO Girls program and the local 4H County Fair

Our local youth depend on the Ridge Runners Snowmobile Club for financial support. There is no other avenue for these kids to obtain the necessary proceeds to promote these activities.

In addition, we also donate to:

- Four fire departments, four city parks, and EMS services on a quarterly basis
- Help local community members with large unexpected medical expenses
- Giving hearts day donation to hospitals and numerous other causes, too many to mention

Not only as a group of snowmobilers, but also as a group of school board members, volunteer fire fighters and EMS responders, we ask that you do not pass SB 2035. These gaming funds are critical to our rural communities. If snowmobile clubs are no longer able to utilize gaming, the future of so many of the previously mentioned activities would no longer be funded. For these reasons, please give SB 2035 a do not pass.

Thank you for your time. I am open to any questions.