

SB2035:

I strongly encourage you to vote NO on this bill. It would be very detrimental to the hockey and ice-skating programs in Mercer and Oliver Counties. These programs do not get any tax monies to help fund them, without the gaming proceeds the North Stars Arena would be forced to shut down or charge exorbitant fees to those that want to use it to cover the costs.

Hazen Winter Sports conducts charitable gaming at a few locations within Mercer County. The profits from the gaming operation are used to fund the operation of the North Stars Arena and subsidize the hockey program that benefit 162 youth in our area. Registration fees and profits from the concessions stand and admission alone cannot come even close to operating the rink. Just to put things into perspective, the average operating costs are \$8K a month. That's just for basic utilities.

That doesn't include any salaries, hockey supplies, or any other perks our members get. For instance, free use of equipment, free skate sharpening, and free ice time when available. In addition, there is the summer camp re-imbusement program we have offered, Pixxellot streaming and Rapid Shot. FYI, Rapid shot yearly software subscription is \$5900.

In addition, we have donated to many organizations that benefit youth. Most recent donations were to Beulah Little People Preschool, Northern Lights Gymnastics, Hazen Post-Prom, Hazen Basketball, and the Shriners. Many Hockey organizations in the state utilize charitable gaming the same way that we do. We do not receive any taxpayer dollars.

Please vote No on SB2035.

Sincerely,

Cindy Aaser