

Honorable Representatives,

My name is Leland Bratlie, a lifelong resident of Drayton, ND. I am a member of the Drayton Curling Club in Drayton, ND and have curled every winter for many years. The Drayton Curling Club was established in 1901 and is the oldest Curling Club in ND. Curling happens to be the state sport in North Dakota and enjoys a rich history in the state.

I am also on the board of directors of Drayton Curling Club Gaming and must testify in strong opposition of SB2035. Our non-profit organization has a small gaming operation at The Zoo Bar in Drayton. Some seem to mistakenly believe charitable gaming such as ours only benefits the sponsoring organization, in our case the Drayton Curling Club. In reality, nothing could be further from the truth. Several weeks ago we held a meeting to distribute funds to worthwhile organizations across Walsh and Pembina Counties. A \$1,000 grant was provided to CHI Friendship of Grafton, which works with the developmentally disabled in our communities. \$5,000 to the Pembina County Food Pantry in Cavalier, a much needed organization in our area providing food assistance to the needy in Pembina County, with donations being their only source of income. Another \$5,000 was donated to the Drayton Public School to replace an old worn stage curtain for the school drama club. Money was donated to the Cavalier 150th all school reunion, the Cavalier school after prom party, Giving Hope in Pembina County, as well as another \$1,000 to the NE ND Heritage Association. \$1,000 to a longtime resident and graduate of Drayton High School married with 2 small children, recently diagnosed with brain cancer. Last summer we made a \$5,000 donation to the Cavalier swimming pool to make needed repairs to the pool so the kids of that community could enjoy themselves on hot summer days. We donate money to the Drayton High School Trap Team to defray expenses so all kids regardless of financial means have the opportunity to participate. Every year we purchase and distribute parkas, hats, mittens and scarves to kids in need in both Drayton and surrounding communities. We have donated thousands of dollars over the years to area backpack programs, sending food home with kids in need of a nutritious meal. We have donated thousands more to area libraries, park boards, school districts, providing opportunities to youth with playground equipment and outdoor recreational equipment. During the past 28 years that we have conducted charitable

gaming we have donated slightly more than \$1,000,000 to worthwhile charities in Pembina and Walsh Counties.

If SB2035 were to pass in current form we would be prohibited from conducting charitable gaming and the worthwhile organizations we have supported over the years would lose that vital financial support. It would not eliminate, or even slow charitable gaming however. Another, most likely much larger organization will step in and take over. The proceeds will not stay local but will be sent somewhere else.

I respectfully ask you to not support this bill in present form as it will be disastrous for many small communities across the state.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this important matter,

Respectfully,

Leland Bratlie

Director, Drayton Curling Club Gaming