

Written Testimony of Bill Tuttle
Before House Education Committee
In Opposition of SB 2035

Chairman Heinert and members of the House Education Committee.

My name is Bill Tuttle, I am a member of the Drayton Curling Club and serve as one of the members of its charitable gaming board. I have lived in the Drayton area most of my life. Serving as a volunteer AEMT on the Drayton Ambulance Service for the past 35 years I have seen firsthand the benefit of charitable gaming dollars within our small community.

Our club gaming committee meets a minimum of quarterly and since receiving our gaming license nearly 30 years ago has donate generously to several non-profit organizations, fire departments, ambulance, and youth organization within Pembina County. I see others from our club have offered extensive testimony on youth organizations and scholarships our club supports, so will leave it at that.

In listening to video testimony in the Senate I am unsure of what this SB 2035 is trying to do. If its gaming addiction with the introduction of video gaming this bill will not resolve that. Should we lose our gaming permit, some school booster club, or other “public spirited” group will come in from some other area in the state, reopen the site and money now leaves our community. The majority if not all the people I know are responsible gamblers. They set a limit and play for the enjoyment and chance of gambling. I wouldn’t even really have considered our curling club as an adult amateur athletic organization until I seen it in this Bill. I always thought of us as a family recreational organization doing good things within our community.

I believe with amendments and returning language of subsection 7 to read “Amateur athletic/community recreational organizations which maintain facilities that are open to the public and share excess revenue with other non-profit and chartable organizations within their communities.” I am sure the Senate interim committee put a lot of work into their Bill but closing gaming sites who do so much good within the community cannot be their intention.

As this Bill is written I am in opposition and would respectfully ask you oppose SB2035.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter,
Bill Tuttle,
306 E Mill Ave.
Drayton, ND 58225