

## Testimony to the Education Committee on SB 2035

Good morning, Chairman Heinert and members of the education committee. My name is Jessica Hermanson and I am the President of Drayton Gaming. I am here to testify on behalf of Drayton Gaming and the Drayton Curling Club in OPPOSITION to SB2035.

SB2035 leaves much uncertainty. We certainly qualify to continue as a charity under the language in the bill, as we are a nonprofit providing community recreation and youth activities, by the public using our curling facility and have additionally sponsored many worthy outside charitable causes over the years when funds allowed. What concerns me is the verbiage of omitting "in state adult amateur athletics as a "worthy" endeavor. We may or may not fall in that category with our adult recreational leagues.

The Drayton Curling Club provides recreation for all members of the community including a curling league that is comprised of youth, women and men, student access to the facility coordinated through the local schools, and various other community events. The Drayton Curling Club recently hosted the U14 Dakota Territory State Championship, that allowed the teams and their family utilize our club and to enjoy our community. These events are costly to host with very little revenue. It is possible to host events, such as this, because of the gaming. After all, Curling is the state sport!!!

I have been a member of the Drayton Curling Club since 1997. I was invited by a family friend to curl as a way to get to know people, as I was newly married and new to town. I have curled ever since. I was asked to sit on the gaming board as a representative of the women's club. I've watched the gaming board, over the past 25 years, evolve into a necessary nonprofit to the youth of our county. In those years, we've taken care of the children and families in our community but also our surrounding communities. The past couple of years we've donated \$87,000. A third of that (\$30,000) was donated to the local park boards in our and surrounding communities to maintain their pools and play ground equipment. Thousands have been given to the back pack program in Pembina county to feed the youth on the weekends, donations to the local proms, supporting sport camps so teams can go together and build camaraderie and gel as a team, the local food banks, LOAN - who help youth with clothing and school supplies, at no cost. I could go on for days on how important the gaming dollars are to our little communities. I am not sure what the aim is of this bill but the non-profit status and state reviews that are presently in placenow should prevent abuse on it's own. Local small town, well managed charities filling local needs for our youth, should not get the boot. To keep people in small town ND we need more community recreation activities, not less.

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

Respectfully Submitted

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Drayton Curling Club Member  
Concerned Citizen of Pembina County