

To whom it may concern:

The Grafton Curling Club has been open and operating for nearly 70 years in our small rural community. The fact that it is still in operation today, can almost solely be attributed to charitable gaming. Our facility provides recreation for members of the community, including adult male and female recreational leagues, youth leagues, and student access to the facility coordinated with local schools. Profits from charitable gaming have kept the membership cost down, in hopes of making the sport of curling more financially accessible. In the seventy years the curling club has been operational in Grafton, we have been able to fund many major structural building projects by charitable gaming profits, keeping the building in code and operational. Some of these projects include roof replacement, ceiling replacement and repairs, new flooring within the club and various repairs to the ice plant. However, as of today, our ice plant is past the point of repair and in need of replacement. This highlights another concern of ours, the language of limiting funds within the bill. This replacement, along with others we have already funded with charitable gaming profits, are so cost prohibitive that funding them would either not be possible and the club would no longer be operational or raise membership prices so high that it would be extremely cost prohibitive to most members. Additionally, our bar area has become one of the most used areas by outside organizations for various meetings, parties, dinners, etc. The restaurant area has been given to individuals who have used it to sell meals to fundraise for, most recently, the local Shriners. If our club is no longer financially solvent because we can no longer access charitable gaming profits, we would not only lose the sport of curling, but a building that has turned into a meeting space for many different organization in our community. It would create a large hole in our Grafton community, that already faces so many financial and economic challenges to keep businesses open and thriving.

Being able to use charitable gaming profits is vital to the club's operation and may be the only way to stay operating.

My concern with SB2035 is the wording and deciding where curling club recreation would be categorized. In the bill I would like to see wording added for "amateur athletic/community recreation organizations that maintain recreation facilities that are open to the public and that share excess gaming revenue with other non-profit and charitable organizations in their communities" be included in the list of eligible public spirited entities, to ensure curling clubs would be included under the bill. This not only affects our local curling club, but so many other North Dakota rural communities taking away another "something to do" in small towns. Under attack in this bill are also snowmobile and other clubs. I am part of our local snowmobile club and the give back to the community is very rewarding to be part of. In fact more than \$40,000 has been given back to the local community the last 2 years. We have done many youth and community events to try gain interests on the youth level and keep interests in the industry on the adult side.

In Conclusion I feel SB2035 is attacking some of the best organizations we have in small communities to keep our towns and recreation alive during some pretty difficult months of winter. These local small town well managed organizations are a vital part of the community and should be here to stay. Please help save the small town organizations and vote NO on SB2035.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to call or email.

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