



Benefiting North Dakota Communities through Charitable Gaming

January 20, 2025

Testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill 1234

Chairman Headland and Members of the House Finance and Taxation Committee:

I'm Scott Meske, representing the North Dakota Gaming Alliance and on behalf of the Members of the NDGA, we stand in support of House Bill 1234. ND Gaming Alliance represents all facets of the charitable gaming industry. Veteran and Fraternal Organizations, Charities, Hospitality, Manufacturers, and Distributors.

We stand in support of HB 1234 but do have one small concern that we would ask you to consider. We are fine with the excess taxes going to help fund the public employee retirement system (PERS) which we think is a good use for those revenues. However our concern is that if the industry would ever need a decrease in our tax rate in the future, instead of simply being a decrease in direct revenues to the state, it would instead be an expense. Likely next week you will be hearing HB 1465 which addresses the current gaming tax rates on charities. If this committee decides to support HB 1234, we would also ask that you support HB 1465 to hopefully avoid the issue I just stated.

With that I would entertain any questions you may have.

Thank you for the opportunity to be with you this morning, and will attempt to entertain any questions you may have.