

January 13, 2025

SB 2035

Senate Judiciary Committee

Chairman and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I am Amy Krueger, Executive Director of the Williston Convention and Visitor Bureau, Inc. a charitable gaming organization. We fall within the language that is proposed to be stricken in this proposed bill, and with no grandfather clause, we would no longer be able to operate.

Most organizations that this bill would affect are organizations that have been in operation since close to the beginning of charitable gaming. They are ones that are following the rules and regulations that have been set to follow.

The Williston Convention and Visitor Bureau, Inc. has been operating gaming for 28 years. We currently have 8 sites, at least 6 of these site locations have been with our organization for over 15 years. These are not sites that we have just acquired in the peak of good times. Many of these may have changed ownership, gone through different phases of development but we have been able to maintain the locations through it all. We currently have 16 gaming employees.

In 2024 Williston CVB Charitable Gaming was able to directly support 19 different organizations with grant dollars totaling \$402,910. In the last 5 years we have supported about 50 different organizations, giving over 1.3 million dollars in grants. A few examples of how these funds are being used are to support youth sporting tournaments, community events, capital projects such as turf fields, trap range development, and historic building projects. These directly impact the groups involved hosting the events and maintaining these facilities, but indirectly it has also benefited so many local business owners of restaurants, shops, hotels, gas stations and others with the customers the events and attractions have brought to the area. This bill would not just negatively affect one organization.

I kindly ask for a Do Not Pass on SB 2035.

Sincerely,

*Amy Krueger*

Amy Krueger, Executive Director