



**HOUSE BILL 1212
HOUSE FINANCE AND TAXATION COMMITTEE
JANUARY 26, 2021**

TESTIMONY OF CYNTHIA C. MONTEAU, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, my name is Cynthia Monteau, I am the Executive Director of the United Tribes Gaming Association (UTGA). I come before you today as a Proponent with amendments of House Bill 1212, a bill that creates a charitable gaming operating fund for cities and counties.

The five tribes of North Dakota formed UTGA, to promote, protect and advocate for tribal gaming and economic development. Tribal casinos are economic engines in our communities by creating jobs - jobs for both tribal members and non-Indians. The impacts of tribal gaming go far beyond the doors of our tribal casinos. Tribal gaming provides essential services to our reservation communities, funds tribal operations, and promotes economic development. In addition to, building local economies in the State by purchasing goods and services from area businesses; for instance, laundry and cleaning services, meat and produce, electricians, plumbers, and heating and air conditioning services.

Tribal gaming generates over \$300 million for our economy in the State and about 3,000 FTEs (full-time equivalents).

Tribal gaming provides a source of jobs for individuals who otherwise would be unemployed and it is an anchor for jobs in other sectors such as tourism, education, and healthcare which may not be available but for a tribal casino – negative impacts to tribal gaming is a negative impact throughout the State.



The electronic pull tabs have dramatically impacted tribal gaming revenue and carving out a portion of 5% of an operating fund for cities and counties with licensed organizations who are conducting games within the city limits or within each county makes sense and it also makes sense to carve out a portion of 1% of an operating fund for tribes that impact the State as a whole.

Gaming impacts jobs and economic development for both our reservation communities and the communities throughout the State where we employee thousands of FTEs and purchase millions in goods and services for our operations. It is for these reasons that we urge a DO pass with amendments to House Bill 1212.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

House Bill 1212

Amendment

Page 2, line 3 insert

“c. One percent of the total moneys deposited in the charitable gaming operating fund to Tribes in proportion to the taxes collected under section 53-06.1-12 from licensed organizations conducting games in the State.”

