



**HOUSE BILL 1212
SENATE FINANCE AND TAXATION COMMITTEE
MARCH 15, 2021**

TESTIMONY OF CYNTHIA C. MONTEAU, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Madam Chair 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, a quarterly allocation to the Attorney General's office, and a small amount to a gambling disorder prevention and treatment fund.

The five tribes of North Dakota formed UTGA, to promote, protect and advocate for tribal gaming and economic development.

In 2017, the electronic pull tabs were discussed as simply making a paper game an electronic game by implementing current technology. Since August of 2018, these electronic pull tab devices have generated in 29 months, the amount of revenue that previously took the State almost 10 years to generate.

These machines were initially in bars to help the charities collect the tickets. We now have them in gas stations, restaurants, and within the last couple of weeks in the mall in Bismarck.

The rent increase also expanded the number of machines per location. And more recently, the charity receiving the most amount of revenue has taken to straight out purchasing bars.



UTGA proposes the following amendments in HB1212:

Page 3, New Section 3, Moratorium and Compliance. The UTGA Board supports the Attorney General instituting a moratorium on the current number of electronic pull tab devices in the state, although the transferring of licenses and the upgrading of devices is allowed. The Attorney General shall require all devices to be in compliance with the Internal Revenue Service Title 31 reporting requirements, and verified at a minimum, annually.

Further, New Section 3, requires a legislative management study during the interim. The study shall include the nature and scope of electronic pull tab games, the impacts on charitable and tribal gaming revenues, the impacts of gambling addiction and a cost-benefit analysis of the increase in charitable gaming revenues and impacted services.

It is with these amendments that UTGA supports HB 1212 and recommends a Do Pass.

Thank you, Madam Chair.