

## **AMERICAN LEGION BARRY-HOOF POST 72**

**PO Box 115  
NAPOLEON, ND 58561**

As the Finance Officer of the American Legion Barry Hoof Post 72 in Napoleon, I would like to express opposition to **(SB2186)**.

Every community has a dire need for a large building to host wedding and anniversary suppers and dances, community meetings, polling locations, local cooperative and small business annual meetings, Veterans and Memorial Day celebrations, emergency shelters in the event of a storm, etc. It is the life-blood in every community.

In the small community of Napoleon, that location is the American Legion Hall, with a capacity of 550 people. The building is nearly 45 years old and needs continual updates and improvements, which are very costly. The only way this community building has survived and thrived is because the American Legion has been able to use charitable gaming funds to provide maintenance and updates for handicap accessibility, energy efficient heating and air conditioning, and safety improvements etc. Our Legion club has charitable gaming at a local bar location and those funds are used not only to donate to local school, civic, and community projects, but also to allow us to continue to operate our community building. Without it, there is no possible way for us to earn enough income to continue to operate the community building.

Whether we donate gaming funds to our community organization's needs and causes, or we use some of the gaming money to keep our community building open, either way we are serving the needs of our community. Probably the bigger of those two needs is to have our Legion Hall Building open for the community to use for the foreseeable future. Please continue to allow us to use the gaming funds for the building that is not not at the same location where we have our gaming. I see no reason to make this change, we are a non-profit veteran organization doing what we have always done.....serve those in need!

Although I don't know the circumstances that led to this Senate Bill being offered, it will be detrimental to our local Legion Post and to our community and other communities like ours!  
Please amend (SB2186) to exclude Veteran Organizations from the proposed change!

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Respectfully,  
Andy Gross  
Finance Officer

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