



## **Benefiting North Dakota Communities through Charitable Gaming**

### **Testimony in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 2186**

Committee Chair Larson and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I'm Scott Meske, representing the North Dakota Gaming Alliance and on behalf of the 152 Members of the NDGA, we offer our support for Senate Bill 2186 which as Senator Klein outlined, allows fraternal organizations to use charitable gaming proceeds to support their facilities, if they are co-located with the gaming operations.

Currently, an organization may not use their gaming proceeds for the erection, acquisition, property taxes, special assessments, improvement, maintenance or repair of real property that is owned or leased by a licensed organization, unless it is a veterans organization. This bill includes adds a fraternal organization into this exemption.

When charitable gaming was authorized by the State, the intent was to benefit the charities and nonprofits in our local communities. It makes sense to allow those veterans and fraternal organizations, many of which are vital to contributing to local causes and projects that support their community, to use their proceeds for maintenance of their facilities. Unlike other charitable gaming entities, these veteran and fraternal organizations often rely on their own facilities to host events and conduct business.

The fiscal note attached to the bill indicates there is no impact to the state tax revenues, or any extra burden to the local political subdivisions.

The North Dakota Gaming Alliance respectfully asks that SB 2186 be given a DO PASS recommendation from this Committee to support to the hundreds of fraternal organizations in our State.

Thank you.