



SCI Alaska Chapter  
Eagle River, Alaska 99577  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[www.aksafariclub.org](http://www.aksafariclub.org)

The Honorable Mia Costello  
Chair Senate Labor and Commerce Committee  
Alaska State Senate  
State Capitol Room 119  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Costello:

**Subject:** Support for Alaska Charitable Gaming Statutory Changes SB-201

The Alaska Chapter of Safari Club International strongly supports the proposed changes to the Alaska Charitable Gaming Regulations (SB-201) allowing online raffle sales, sales to non-residents, and user self-verification. These changes will greatly benefit non-profit small businesses both financially and functionally. Subsequently these benefits have the potential to result in greater service to the public while providing an economic boost to the State and local communities.

The Safari Club International – Alaska Chapter is a 501c4 conservation non-profit Corporation established in Alaska in 1977. We currently have approximately 600 members. Our mission statement is “SCI-First for Hunters”

We are a conservation organization that promotes the scientific management of Alaska’s wildlife and the protection of Alaskan hunters rights. We do this partly by funding wildlife projects and sending money to the ADF&G. Normally funds sent to the ADF&G are eligible for matching Pitman-Robertson (PR) funds. In addition, we fund projects that encourage Alaska’s youth to get outdoors to fish and hunt. We also fund Wounded Warrior (WW) hunts. Every year we sponsor the WW DM795 moose hunt on Ft. Wainwright. Last year SCI-AK sponsored all 6 WW permit winners and paid for all their hunting expenses. That included license fees, transportation, lodging and meat processing. These are just a small sample of what the funds are used for.

In 2021 SCI-AK took in approximately \$425K in our raffles, of that 52% came from out of state. This year we are raffling off a Governor’s Chugach sheep permit. To date we have sold \$450,000 worth of tickets. By the drawing date we think it likely will be over \$500,000. Over 50% of those raffle tickets will be sold to hunters outside Alaska. In this particular raffle 70% of the profits will go directly to the ADF&G. Which again means when matched by PR grants is roughly \$1.4 million for wildlife management.

There are other less obvious advantages to Non-profit Small Businesses – Changing the Charitable Gaming Regulations to allow online raffle sales, out-of-state sales, and user self-verification have other very distinct business advantages for non-profits including:

- Providing Access to a Broader Audience: allows Alaskans and non-Alaskans who could not normally participate in raffles and events to participate
- Increasing Efficiency – no longer dependent upon volunteers to sell tickets - automating that process helps immeasurably.
- Adapting to Changing Norms: Increasingly people prefer to buy online
- Security of Financial Transactions: Online sales eliminates direct handling of credit card information

- Better Tracking of Sales Data: Online sales helps eliminate data handling errors and makes data instantly available and reportable - benefits business and facilitates regulatory compliance
- Continuously Markets Alaska – through our raffle sales we are directly and indirectly marketing Alaska - many of our prizes involve trips to Alaska

**In Summary:** The Safari Club International-Alaska Chapter supports the SB-201, the Charitable Gaming change. The passage of this legislation will greatly assist us in our of protecting Alaskan hunters rights, to promote wildlife management and to encourage Alaskans to do more hunting especially out youth.

Best regards:

*John Sturgeon*

**SCI Alaska Chapter President**

[REDACTED]



The Honorable Mia Costello  
Chair Senate Labor and Commerce Committee  
Alaska State Senate  
State Capitol Room 119  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Costello:

**Subject:** Support for Alaska Charitable Gaming Statutory Changes

The Alaska Wild Sheep Foundation strongly supports proposed changes to the Alaska Charitable Gaming Regulations allowing online raffle sales, sales to non-residents, and user self-verification. These changes will greatly benefit non-profit small businesses both financially and functionally. Subsequently these benefits have the potential to result in greater service to the public while providing an economic boost to the State and local communities.

The Alaska Wild Sheep Foundation (AK WSF) is a 501c3 conservation non-profit Corporation established in Alaska in 2014. We currently have approximately 700 members with a following of more than 4500 people through social media. We are a volunteer run organization with two part time contractors, lobbyist and biologist.

*AK WSF Mission: Enhance wild sheep populations, promote scientific wildlife management, educate the public on wild sheep, and protect and improve sheep hunting and viewing opportunities in Alaska.*

A significant portion (over \$300K) of last year's gross revenue of \$1.2M came from online raffle ticket sales allowed under the current COVID emergency acts.

Of the more than \$300K we took in from online raffles, almost two-thirds came from participants from outside Alaska. We are no longer simply "recycling" money within the State. Our estimates are that at least 85% of the raffle increases that we are experiencing are due to non-resident sales or "new" money.

Virtually the entirety of revenue that we receive for AK WSF is ultimately spent in Alaska. It is either provided in the form of grants to ADF&G and other conservation organizations to fulfill our mission or covering basic expenses of the organization.

There are other less obvious advantages to Non-profit Small Businesses – Changing the Charitable Gaming Regulations to allow online raffle sales, out-of-state sales, and user self-verification have other very distinct business advantages for non-profits including:

- Providing Access to a Broader Audience: allows Alaskans and non-Alaskans who could not normally participate in raffles and events to participate
- Increasing Efficiency – no longer dependent upon volunteers to sell tickets - automating that process helps immeasurably.

[www.AKWildSheep.org](http://www.AKWildSheep.org)

- Adapting to Changing Norms: Increasingly people prefer to buy online
- Security of Financial Transactions: Online sales eliminates direct handling of credit card information
- Better Tracking of Sales Data: Online sales helps eliminate data handling errors and makes data instantly available and reportable - benefits business and facilitates regulatory compliance
  
- Continuously Markets Alaska – through our raffle sales we are directly and indirectly marketing Alaska - many of our prizes involve trips to Alaska

**Conclusion:** The experiences of the Alaska Wild Sheep Foundation under the temporary changes to the Alaska Charitable Gaming Regulations that allow online raffle sales, sales to non-residents, and user self-verification clearly show how *non-profit small businesses* can benefit both financially and functionally from changing gaming laws. Subsequently these benefits have the potential to result in greater service to the public while providing an economic boost to the State and local communities.

*Keeping Sheep on the Mountains of Alaska*



Kevin J. Kehoe, President  
Alaska Wild Sheep Foundation  
[REDACTED]



BETHEL COMMUNITY SERVICES  
FOUNDATION INC.

The Honorable Mia Costello  
Chair Senate Labor and Commerce Committee  
Alaska State Senate  
State Capitol Room 119  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Costello:

**Subject:** Support for Alaska Charitable Gaming Statutory Changes SB-201

The Kuskokwim Ice Classic supports the proposed changes to the Alaska Charitable Gaming Regulations (SB-201) allowing online raffle sales, sales to non-residents, and user self-verification. These changes will greatly benefit non-profit small businesses both financially and functionally. Subsequently these benefits have the potential to result in greater service to the public while providing an economic boost to the State and local communities.

Bethel Community Services Foundation operates the Kuskokwim Ice Classic, which is a contest that allows people to guess the date and time the ice will go out on the Kuskokwim River in front of Bethel. Net proceeds from this contest support local youth groups and nonprofit organizations.

Selling in-person ice classic tickets is logistically challenging- it involves significant labor on the sales side but also on the data management side, with the physical sorting of tickets and entry into a spreadsheet to ensure accuracy. While we would still continue some in-person sales with the passage of SB-201, there is significant public demand for an electronic option for submitting guesses. Electronic submissions ensures accuracy, minimizes human error and expands our reach fro our small community of 6,000 to Alaskans across the state and people in the Lower 48 who want to support these groups and enter a guess.

BCSF agrees with SCI's assessment that there are many advantages to non-profit organizations and that changing the Charitable Gaming Regulations to allow online raffle sales, out-of-state sales, and user self-verification offer many advantages, to include:

- Providing Access to a Broader Audience: allows Alaskans and non-Alaskans who could not normally participate in raffles and events to participate
- Increasing Efficiency – no longer dependent upon volunteers to sell tickets - automating that process helps immeasurably.
- Adapting to Changing Norms: Increasingly people prefer to buy online
- Security of Financial Transactions: Online sales eliminates direct handling of credit card information
- Better Tracking of Sales Data: Online sales helps eliminate data handling errors and makes data instantly available and reportable - benefits business and facilitates regulatory compliance
- Continuously Markets Alaska – through our raffle sales we are directly and indirectly marketing Alaska

**Again, the Kuskokwim Ice Classic and its parent organization, BCSF, supports SB-201, the Charitable Gaming change. The passage of this legislation will greatly assist us in developing sustainable fundraising streams to support the missions of groups in our community. Please contact us at [michelle@bcsfoundation.org/907-543-1812](mailto:michelle@bcsfoundation.org/907-543-1812) with any questions.**

Sincerely,

  
Michelle DeWitt

Executive Director

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**From:** David Worel <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 19, 2022 12:37 PM  
**To:** Senate Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** Lottery

WE would like to thank labor and commerce committee for introducing SB 201 and offer support. We would like to propose the following amendment to SB 201.

On page 3 line 5 and 6 amended language so it is the same as currently allowed by House Bill 76.

**A permittee, operator, or holder of a multi-beneficiary permit conducting a raffle or lottery, dog measures contest, Derby, or type of classic defined ( AS 05.15.690 ) may draw winning tickets online or by other electronic or digital means.**

David Worel

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**From:** rossbeal@gci.net <[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** Saturday, February 19, 2022 2:19 PM

**To:** Sen. Mia Costello <Sen.Mia.Costello@akleg.gov>; Sen. Joshua Revak <Sen.Joshua.Revak@akleg.gov>; Sen. Peter Micciche <Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov>; Sen. Gary Stevens <Sen.Gary.Stevens@akleg.gov>; Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson <Sen.Elvi.Gray-Jackson@akleg.gov>

**Cc:** 'Randy Zarnke' <[REDACTED]>

**Subject:** SB201

To all committee members

As a member on the board of directors of the Alaska trappers Association, a Alaska non-profit, and member in charge of gaming, we depend on income from gaming to help us to preserve and promote trapping through trapper education and public awareness. Thank you for introducing SB201. We would like to suggest an amendment concerning page 3, line 5 and 6, so it is the same as currently allowed by House Bill 76.

**A permittee, operator, or holder of a multi-beneficiary permit conducting a raffle or lottery, dog measures contest, Derby, or type of classic defined ( AS 05.15.690 ) may draw waiting tickets online or by other electronic or digital means.**

Thank you for your consideration of the requested amendment.

Ross Beal  
ATA/VP

**From:** Rob Proffitt <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 20, 2022 10:22 AM  
**To:** Sen. Mia Costello <Sen.Mia.Costello@akleg.gov>  
**Cc:** <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** SB 201

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Dear Sen. Costello

I would like to thank the labor and commerce committee for introducing SB 201. This legislation will greatly help Alaska nonprofits in their fundraising activities in the future. I would like to propose the following amendment to SB 201.

On page 3 line 5 and 6 amended language so it is the same as currently allowed by House Bill 76.

**A permittee, operator, or holder of a multi-beneficiary permit conducting a raffle or lottery, dog measures contest, Derby, or type of classic defined ( AS 05.15.690 ) may draw waiting tickets online or by other electronic or digital means.**

The Fairbanks Ice Dogs hockey team and the University of Alaska Fairbanks Nanooks hockey team have been using an electronic draw for the 50-50 raffles that take place during the games since it's been allowed by the passage of HB 76. This ability has streamlined the operation and has saved time, money and anxiety.

Thank you for your time and support

Rob Proffitt  
Fairbanks Ice Dogs

Sent from my iPhone



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**From:** Gregory Johnson <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 20, 2022 1:30 PM  
**To:** Senate Labor and Commerce  
**Cc:** <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Senate Bill 201

TO: Senate.Labor.And.Commerce@akleg.gov (via email)

Dear Labor and Commerce Senators,

I am sending you this email to thank you for your introduction of **SB 201**.

Our organization, Alaska Girls' and Women's Hockey, Inc., has supported the sport of hockey since its inception many years ago. The funds that have been made available to our organization through charitable gaming has supported our stated mission.

Obviously, for our organization maintaining the ability to fund our operations is highly dependent upon charitable gaming proceeds. In that light, we believe it always important for our organization be mindful of legislative actions that would attempt to eliminate or "overregulate" online gaming activities. Thankfully, that is not a concern with respect to SB 201. Nonetheless, we believe to further improve SB 201 could be accomplished by adding the following amendment on page 3, line 5 and 6 so it is the same as currently allowed by **HB 76**.

**“A permittee, operator, or holder of a multi-beneficiary permit conducting a raffle or lottery, dog mushing contest, Derby, or type of classic defined ( AS 05.15.690 ) may draw waiting tickets online or by other electronic or digital means.”**

All the best with moving this bill forward. And once again, thank you for your continued support of Alaska's non-profits.

Respectfully,

Gregory L. Johnson

Gregory L. Johnson, President  
Alaska Girls' and Women's Hockey, Inc.

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**From:** Randy Zarnke <i>[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 20, 2022 4:08 PM  
**To:** Senate Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** SB 201

Dear Labor and Commerce Senators:

I serve as president of the Alaska Trappers Association. We hold a state gaming permit and receive income from Emerald Isle Pull-Tabs in Fairbanks. Funds raised in this manner support our numerous education and community service projects. Without the gaming funds, it would be necessary for us to scale back our out-reach to both trappers and non-trappers.

We would like to thank labor and commerce committee for introducing SB 201 and offer our support. We would like to propose the following amendment to SB 201.

On page 3 line 5 and 6 amended language so it is the same as currently allowed by House Bill 76.

**A permittee, operator, or holder of a multi-beneficiary permit conducting a raffle or lottery, dog mushers contest, Derby, or type of classic defined ( AS 05.15.690 ) may draw winning tickets online or by other electronic or digital means.**

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**From:** Anna Culley <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 20, 2022 5:21 PM  
**To:** Sen. Mia Costello <Sen.Mia.Costello@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** SB 201

Hello Senator Costello,  
I would like to thank the Labor and Commerce Committee for introducing SB 201. I would like to propose the following amendment to SB 201.

On page 3 line 5 and 6 amend the language so it is the same as what is currently allowed by House Bill 76.

**A permittee, operator, or holder of a multi-beneficiary permit conducting a raffle or lottery, dog measures contest, Derby, or type of classic defined ( AS 05.15.690) may draw waiting tickets online or by other electronic or digital means.**

Thank you for your consideration!

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*Anna Culley*

# ALASKA

## PROFESSIONAL HUNTERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

P.O. Box 240971 ~ Anchorage, AK 99524

Phone: (907) 929-0619

Email: [office@alaskaprohunter.org](mailto:office@alaskaprohunter.org) ~ [www.alaskaprohunter.org](http://www.alaskaprohunter.org)

Subject: Support for Proposed Changes to Alaska Charitable Gaming Regulations

APHA was founded in 1969 and is organized as a 501(c)(6). APHA is a trade association representing Alaska's hunting guides and promoting conservation of Alaska's wildlife resources. APHA promotes industry professionalism, land stewardship, community and public relations and advocates for continued access to state and federal public lands. As an example, APHA put its boots on the ground while ANILCA was being drafted to ensure access to federal conservation units would continue and rural economic opportunities would be maintained.

The Alaska Professional Hunters Association (APHA) is in total support of the proposed changes to the Charitable Gaming Regulations. The benefit that allowing online ticket sales for non-profits in the state of Alaska is tremendous. APHA hosts a number of raffles each year, eliminating the online sales option will diminish the value of donations given to our organization by Alaskans. With the passing of HB76, specifically the allowance of purchasing raffle tickets online, we saw a substantial jump in ticket sales for the 2021 calendar year. Approximately 40% of our revenue is generated from raffle ticket sales.

The ability to offer charitable gaming online offers many benefits that small non-profit organizations such as ours:

- Puts Alaska non-profits on equal footing with lower 48 groups already selling online in Alaska
- New revenue to Alaska vs. recirculating money in state or losing money when consumers buy online from out-of-state groups
- Significant benefit to guides who want to donate to a charity and see maximum return on the donation (before online sales were allowed their only option was to causes out of state)
- Greater efficiency and cost savings in emailing tickets rather than using snail mail
- Online purchasing offer better security for our customers. There is no need for us to handle credit card information
- Increased marketing outside Alaska has a substantial impact on tourism. The prize for our most successful raffle is a trip within our state. This has a wide-reaching impact that affects tourism from hotels to gear suppliers
- Reduced staff resources due to online efficiencies

The APHA is grateful to the Governor and the Legislature for the statutory and regulatory leeway afforded us during the pandemic to not just advertise our raffles but actually sell tickets online. As an organization we have invested in infrastructure to seamlessly incorporate online raffle sales in our fundraising efforts. Because the pandemic forced us to cancel our in-person banquets for the past two years, these rule suspensions were especially valuable, all our programs remained viable through the pandemic. The APHA supports permanent reform to allow online raffle ticket sales to include sales online, out of state so Alaska is on an even playing field with lower 48 non-profits.

I am writing today to thank you for your introduction and hearing of SB 201 USE OF INTERNET FOR CHARITABLE GAMING, and to offer support.

We have been long overdue in Alaska in reference to allowing the use of the internet for conducting charitable gaming. This is a benefit to every recipient of non-profit services across Great Land. Youth sports, veterans, educational service providers, health resources — indeed every quadrant of our lives are assisted by Alaska's non-profits. Our State recognizes charities and the work they do in providing services the state budget cannot afford. The Charitable Gaming Act was designed with this in mind. It is very appropriate for this act to catch up with the times.

This year, a special provision was made so that gaming could be conducted online. As we all know, the pandemic shut normal activity down — prohibiting the established distribution of raffle and lottery tickets. We just couldn't meet people in person to sell them lottery and raffle tickets. The State of Alaska knew they relied on the services we provide, so an exception was made.

We are appealing to you to consider making this change permanent. As Charitable Gaming Permittees & Operators, we have demonstrated that this is a program that works. There is no need to limit this program in the future. We have demonstrated that charitable gaming Operators and Permittees can be accountable through this system. We would argue now, that indeed — this is the only way some of us will survive in order to continue to do our good work.

We are grateful for your recognition of the importance to Alaska's communities this legislation brings. Funds received by allowing online raffles and lotteries permanently will continue to support the state budget (through revenue fees). Additionally, the relief to the budget will be realized by the provision of services from Alaska's charities. These non-profit entities impact communities in our state from Nuiqsut on the North Slope to Ketchikan in Southeast...from Adak in the Aleutians to Tok in the Interior.

Please let us express how grateful we are for your diligence on our behalf. We appreciate your recognition of the good works of our Alaska non-profits.

Joshua C. Lewis  
[REDACTED]  
Anchorage, AK

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Patricia Walkotte <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 21, 2022 8:21 AM  
**To:** Senate Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** SB 201

I belong to Theta Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma. Our group is an organization of Educators. We benefit from the Charitable gaming. We use the money we receive from this to give scholarships to new and returning students to peruse degrees in education, grants for teachers to use with students throughout Fairbanks North Star Borough- both private and public schools, provide Nursery Rhyme Books to newborn babies born in local hospitals, provide signs for the school busses for children to identify their bus, just to name a few things. We would not be able to provide these services to the community without this money that we receive.

We would like to Thank Labor and Commerce Committee for introducing SB 201 and would like to offer support. We would like to make the following amendment to SB 201:

On page 3 line 5 and 6 amend language so that it is the same as currently allowed by House Bill 76.

A permittee, operator, or holder of a multi-beneficiary permit conducting a raffle or lottery, dog mushers contest, Derby, or type of classic defined (As 05.15.690) may draw winning tickets online or by other electronic or digital means.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Patrica Walkotte  
member of DKG

Sent from my iPhone