



Mat-Su Amateur Hockey Association

P.O. Box 871880
Wasilla, AK 99687-1880



February 10th, 2024

Re: Support for Alaska Charitable Gaming

Dear House Labor & Commerce Committee Members:

I am writing on behalf of the Mat-Su Amateur Hockey Association ("MAHA"). We are a non-profit which operates in the Mat-Su Valley. We provide a youth hockey program for approximately 250 kids each year. It is the philosophy and goal of MAHA to provide a viable youth hockey program for all Mat-Su Valley youth athletes, and to help the kids involved grow and mature into better adults by participating in a program which promotes team effort, sportsmanship, competition, and quality adult leadership.

Youth athletics provide life skills that are directly applicable and highly beneficial to future employment as an adult. Traits such as self-discipline, camaraderie, and teamwork not only help them to become employable but keep kids active and healthy. Youth sports boost the community spirit and keep kids busy enough to stay out of trouble. During the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic, the program provided by MAHA provided one of the few options that served as a critical athletic and social outlet for youth in the Mat-Su Valley.

As a volunteer driven non-profit organization, MAHA relies on its sponsors and the charitable donations of Big Valley Bingo to provide funding for our hockey program. It is through their contributions that we have been able to provide scholarships for youth to participate in hockey where they would not otherwise have been able to. We also provide goalie and skills clinics that further the development of our athletes, which would otherwise be cost prohibitive for individuals to pursue on their own. Additionally, these funds allow us to provide coaching and ice arena equipment that have a significant impact on our ability to deliver a high quality, and nationally competitive hockey program. Hockey is a big part of the Alaska community, and the contributions from charitable gaming play a large role in keeping our program viable. The financial impact of MAHA's youth hockey program has a multiplying effect on communities across the State of Alaska through costs associated with transportation, ice arena facility use, lodging, and sustenance.

The current language of HB 200 E-Tabs leave us extremely concerned about how it would impact our hockey program and our community. These types of facilities would undoubtedly have a large negative impact on the charitable gaming establishments in the Anchorage and

Mat-Su Valley areas, thus impacting non-profit organizations like ours which rely on their financial support.

It is our understanding the proposed addition of electronic pull tabs in HB 200 would allow E-Tab manufacturers to receive more money than the Alaska Charities will receive. E-Tab Manufacturers could take 35% to 50% of the revenues out of the Alaska economy and away from Alaskan nonprofits like MAHA. Additionally, there is other language in the bill that could result in less protection for those participating in pull tabs, including potentially minors.

There is no question there would be a large decrease in the charitable contributions across Anchorage and the Mat-Su Valley. This could be financially devastating to many non-profit organizations.

We request that lawmakers seriously consider the detrimental impact this would have on local non-profits, such as MAHA, when evaluating the proposed impacts of HB 200. To that end, we strongly encourage you to not allow this proposal to move forward.

If there are any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me by email at president@matsuhockey.com or by phone at (907) 529-4404.

Kindest Regards,



Tim Conrad, President
Mat-Su Amateur Hockey Association