



ALASKA DISTRICT COUNCIL OF LABORERS

Laborers' International Union of North America
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May 6, 2025

Senate Labor and Commerce Committee

State Capitol Room 105

Juneau, AK 99801

Submitted via email: Senate.Labor.And.Commerce@akleg.gov

Subject: Support SB 170 on Electronic Tablets for Pull-Tabs

Dear Committee Members:

The Alaska Laborers urge you to support SB 170 to modernize charitable gaming with electronic pull-tab tablets. We believe this legislation strikes an appropriate balance by allowing electronic tablets for charitable gaming. Allowing this technology will continue to support Alaskan non-profits that assist our communities.

The Alaska Laborers union is made up of over 5,000 Alaskans working across the construction, oil and gas, service, tourism, public, and healthcare sectors. Our members build and maintain our bridges and highways, work on critical energy infrastructure, and provide other public services that are essential for the safety and prosperity of our communities. The Laborers use charitable gaming proceeds to support our scholarship fund to assist students pursuing vocational training and other educational opportunities. The Laborers also use charitable proceeds to fund charitable contributions to other community organizations.

Allowing electronic tablets will be beneficial to charities for several reasons. The electronic tablets will enhance accuracy and streamline accounting for charities. Tablets will retain the social aspect of charitable gaming so that people can enjoy interactions together while gaming. Since tablets will keep operational and maintenance costs low, that means more revenue would be going to charities that support our communities. Tablets are feasible for shipping in the state with reasonable costs. By contrast, pull-tab cabinets are not as beneficial for charities and will make the facilities appear like casinos. Cabinets are less likely to promote social interaction and entail higher costs for operations and maintenance.

Thank you for your consideration. The Laborers encourage you to support SB 170. This legislation will help modernize charitable gaming and enable Alaska non-profits to raise additional revenues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A.J. Merrick II". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "A" and "J".

A.J. "Joey" Merrick II