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April 26, 2021

The Honorable Mia Costello
State Capitol Room 119
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Senator Costello:

I am writing to you today in support of Senate Bill No. 130 "An Act relating to electronic pull-tabs". My company Grover Gaming is one of the largest manufacturers of charitable gaming products including electronic pull-tabs in the United States. We have studied the Alaska charitable gaming industry specifically paper pull-tabs and bingo. Knowing that Governor Dunleavy is developing plans for a state-run lottery and other forms of gaming, charities in Alaska must modernize in order to keep up, because they usually get left out. We complement you as Chair, and the Labor & Commerce Committee, for being forward thinking by introducing Senate Bill No. 130.

In the times even before the pandemic, charities across the USA have had a difficult time raising revenue for needed services and worthy causes. Charitable bingo and paper pull-tabs have helped raise revenues, but as other forms of entertainment have crept into our lives, charities are having a difficult time competing. Charities need the same opportunities as other industries to modernize and offer new technologies.

Bingo halls in Alaska and specifically Anchorage (like Tudor Road Bingo and Gold Cache Bingo) have already modernized their bingo games by offering electronic bingo on electronic tablets. This has proven to be successful for bingo. Enhancing paper pull-tabs to also be offered in electronic format will further enhance their offerings to their players.

Many state legislatures in the lower 48 have already approved electronic pull-tabs for their charities. My company provides electronic pull-tab to these states. These states include Virginia, New Hampshire, Kentucky, Minnesota, North Dakota, and Idaho. Other states are currently looking at allowing this modernization as well.

Again, I thank you and your committee for introducing this important legislation for Alaska charities. I would be happy to provide information and/or testimony when this bill is up for debate.

Very truly yours,

Scott Henneman
Vice President
Business Development and Governmental Affairs