



SCI Alaska Chapter
Eagle River, Alaska 99577
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
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

*Safari Club International Alaska Chapter
First for Hunters - First for Wildlife*

- 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

- 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
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- 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]

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

Melodie Wilterdink

From: Gregory Johnson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, February 20, 2022 1:30 PM
To: Senate Labor and Commerce
Cc: ben_roth@hotmail.com; suejohnson@att.net
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.