

House Representatives,

This email is in direct opposition of HB 200 Gaming Electronic Pulltabs as it is written. As a member of an Alaskan nonprofit this issue is extremely important to me and the Alaskan group I am a part of.

This legislation was written by an out-of-state electronic pulltab manufacturer that also owns a majority of the paper pulltab manufacturers. They have unlimited resources and have hired two lobbying firms to persuade the legislators. It is written to benefit them and not Alaska nonprofits. For three years now they have been telling us that 50% of the profit would go out-of-state to them. Now they are telling the legislators that it would only be 35% going out-of-state. That is more money than the nonprofits would receive.

The legislation as written creates an opportunity for them to have a monopoly. They recently purchased the Whaler pulltab distributorship. Because they own most of the paper pulltab manufacturers they will most likely stop selling their product to the other pulltab distributors. Creating a scenario where they can charge whatever they want after they put the other pulltab distributors out of business. This legislation needs to include that a pulltab or electronic pulltab manufacturer cannot also hold a distributors license in the state of Alaska. This is necessary to protect the nonprofits

AS 05.15.180 A. This bill gives the department the authority to authorize any type of gambling operation without going back to the legislators or the public. It is not a good ideal to let that happen.

As this legislation was written by an out-of-state manufacturer they have included language that could possibly limit their competition from other manufacturers. I understand there are too many issues that must to be addressed that may lead to unintended consequences. Any changes in legislation must to be written and supported by Alaska nonprofits to benefit Alaska nonprofits. This legislation, as written will benefit the out of state manufacturer that can afford high paid lobbyists, and not the Alaskan nonprofits. Alaska nonprofits depend on these gaming funds to operate our organizations.

Alaska has one of the best charitable gaming systems in the country to benefit Alaska nonprofits. Please do not jeopardize this with the passing of this legislation as written.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jamie Bodenstadt

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Susan Bodensadt

To the Alaska Labor and Commerce Committee members,

I'm writing to express my concern with two bills, HB 200 and SB 146, regarding Gaming Electronic Pull tabs.

As a small nonprofit offering educational and cultural programs, we rely heavily on the income that is created through charitable gaming. As you may expect I was very concerned to hear that interests outside of Alaska are lobbying to get this legislation passed and that by doing so would essentially monopolize pull-tab production. Alaskans should be writing their own legislation or at the very least be involved in the process.

I urge the committee members to oppose this legislation until Alaskans can sit down with it and rewrite it. I'm afraid that if this legislation passes, as is, we could lose some of our programming.

I appreciate your time and consideration of these concerns.

Sincerely,

Sara A. Thiele

Having been a Commander of American Legion Post 29 in Anchorage for seven of the last twenty years, I cannot express how hard it is for us to exist on the lower scale of the stronger and much larger non-profits. Electronic gaming is not a be all end all, but with the additional allocation for non-profits along with pull tab revenue , I believe it can and will make a huge impact on all of our operations. I can not see any major down in making this the best bill and moving forward.

I personally support approval of the bill. It will benefit all community programs ultimately. Thanks.

Charles M. Boring

Testimony on HB 200 "Electronic Pull-Tabs"
Submitted March 12, 2024

Committee Members.

My name is Jack Heesch. I am the President and Primary Member in Charge of a small non-profit, Anchorage Youth and Recreation. (AY&R)

Our main focus is fastpitch softball. We, together with a number of like-minded groups in a loose coalition in Anchorage provide organized play for girls as young as 10 and Under to 18 and Under. In total some 200 to 250 young women play this team sport under our auspices.

This includes managing, on behalf of the Anchorage School District, both the Middle School and High School programs. We receive no financial support from the School District and each school has to raise its own funds to participate. AY&R provides financial support to each of the schools.

Our coalition also provides a robust summer program. That includes an introductory program for young women unfamiliar with softball, to a calendar of tournaments at all age levels.

Each summer a three day training camp is offered for all levels of play, run by 20-25 College Coaches brought to Anchorage. Finally, a number of our competitive teams travel outside to compete in regional and national tournaments, many attended by College Coaches
All this is accomplished with volunteers and paid for from fundraising activities year round.

I won't go into extolling the great lessons learned playing a team sport, but I will leave you with two tangible outcomes of our efforts.

Every high school coach has stories of young high school women who have stayed in school so they could play softball for their school. These are students who might otherwise have dropped out of school, but instead graduate.

Also, each year we can point to anywhere from a handful to a dozen of the young women in these programs being awarded softball scholarships to play at colleges and universities all over the country.

The funding AY&R receives through charitable gaming finds ways to support all of these aspects of a program that receives little recognition or acknowledgement.

Our small organization is like many other charitable gaming non-profits. They go about doing their good work in ways many of us don't even know about. We are out there quietly doing what we can to make life better for Alaskans.

I have great concern for the potential impacts this legislation may have on the charitable gaming community. In considering this bill, please be aware of the potential unintended consequences of this action. Please take care to protect a system that is working and benefitting Alaskans throughout the state.

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