

March 21, 2022

Rep. Kristin Bahner
St. Paul, MN 55155

Representative Bahner,

I am writing this letter in support of your bill that you have put forth: HF4007.

I am the gambling manager for the St. Michael/ Albertville American Legion Post 567. As I look back into last fiscal year (2020-2021), the St. Michael/ Albertville American Legion Post 567 was taxed at 31%, our operating cost was 39%, and our donations were at 20%.

This bill would be extremely beneficial to our organization. It would allow us to do so much more for our community and our Veterans. To give you a couple of examples of all the good that we do within our community, we donate to our local food shelf in the amount of \$1000.00 per month and we donate another \$1000 per month to our local FYCC program. These are only 2 examples of the more than 20 donations that we make each month to our community youth development programs. Of course, we also support our Veterans by donating to St. Cloud Stand Down in the amount of \$500.00 per month and Eagles Nest, which is a place for veterans to heal and get supportive help for PTSD and other physical disabilities. Once again, these are just 2 examples of numerous donations that we make to veterans programs. Could you imagine what we could do for our Veterans and our communities if our tax rate would be reduced?

With this all being said, I haven't mentioned that our operation costs have gone up drastically this past year. This in turn will greatly affect our donation percentages as well. If we continue to pay such a high percentage toward taxes and our operation costs continue to increase, the Veterans and the local communities will suffer drastically. As far as I am concerned, we will just be a casino for the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to the the importance of this issue. If you would like more information and additional fiscal examples I would be happy to do so.

Thank you for supporting charitable gaming.

Eric H. Kloss
Gambling Manager
St. Michael American Legion Post 567
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