



Dear Members of the State Government Finance and Policy and Elections Committee:

My name is Jon Weaver and I am the president of Pilot Games, a Minnetonka-based producer of electronic pull tab games.

I write in support of Senate File 2862. This measure would ensure that electronic pull tab devices, games, and systems are not subject to changes in rules, unless authorized by the legislature.

During the 2021 legislative session, House File 2366 passed the House and failed to advance in the Senate. This bill would have terminated games that "display or simulate any other form of gambling, entertainment, slot machines, electronic video lotteries, or video games of chance."

HF 2366 would have effectively ended electronic charitable gaming in Minnesota. Our charities, bars, and restaurants that were just coming out of a very difficult situation with the pandemic would have been crushed.

In fiscal year 2021, e-pull tabs produced \$1.3 billion in statewide revenues; \$54 million in local wages statewide; \$51 million in total statewide taxes; \$49 million statewide in revenue for local bars, restaurants and other gaming sites; and \$35.7 million in continued funding of US Bank Stadium, the home of the Vikings.

Legislative supporters of this failed 2021 effort compared the iPads played in veterans' clubs and bars to slot machines in casinos. Yet in May 2020, Administrative Law Judge Barbara Case had dismissed that argument. "The mere push of a button is too far attenuated to constitute 'mimicking' of a slot machine," Judge Case ruled.

I respectfully ask committee members to help provide a stable regulatory environment for companies like mine. We need regulatory certainty as we have made significant investments in our businesses. In addition, we believe this regulatory certainty will help us better support the numerous charities, bars, and restaurants in Minnesota we work with every day.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Jon Weaver, President
Pilot Games