

## Testimony in support of HB 1263

**Rick Olek, Fargo**

Good Afternoon Madam Chair and Senate Finance & Tax Committee Members.

Thank You for the opportunity to testify today.

I SUPPORT the passage of HB 1263.

My name is Rick Olek I am a combat veteran of the Vietnam War. I live in Fargo, North Dakota, and I am a life member of these veteran groups: AMVET Post #7, VFW Post 762, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 941, and DAV Chapter 3, and I am an annual member of American Legion Post #2.

I came back from Vietnam on March 28, 1972, at the great age of 21. Shortly after I joined the Fargo VFW Post 762. I give you this background to show I have been involved with veteran organizations for a long time.

I am currently serving as gaming chairperson for Amvet Post #7 in Fargo. We have struggled as a club. We have 9 employees and have a property tax bill of \$5,568.

In 2018 we paid our property taxes out of the charitable gaming fund, but then in 2019 Amvet Post #7 was denied paying property taxes out of charitable trust fund. Why? Because the Century Code was not clear on this issue.

The passage of HB 1263 would allow veteran organizations with club houses the OPTION for paying this Tax out of Charitable Gaming Funds.

It would not lower the tax or reduce the tax in any way. This bill, if passed, will help many veteran clubs that are the mainstay in towns and communities in North Dakota. These clubs employ people and contribute to the communities in so many ways. I believe we all want these jobs and businesses to survive, and this bill will give veteran clubs a little better chance of survival.

This bill, HB 1263, has the support of the North Dakota Veterans Legislative Council.

I ask for your support of veterans bill HB 1263.

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