



January 6, 2025

Sen. John Marty  
Chair, Senate Finance Committee  
95 University Avenue W.  
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3235  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Chairman Marty and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

On behalf of the nine tribes of the MN Indian Gaming Association (MIGA), thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the potential harms of legal, regulated mobile sports betting. Minnesota tribes and their leaders are not experts on the societal impacts of legal mobile sports wagering. As gaming tribes, we can provide important context to the clear advantages that a legal regulated market offers compared to the current illicit one. Minnesota's sovereign tribal nations offering gaming today also uniquely understand how gaming revenues support tribal self-determination and have improved the lives of Native people in ways that must be considered as an offset to possible related harms.

Minnesotans are betting on sports today in record numbers. Some individuals cross state borders to do it legally, but the vast majority use a growing and easily accessible illegal online market. Illicit operators, often based off-shore and completely unregulated, do not protect consumers, take bets from kids, ignore sensible problem gambling measures and provide no revenue to the state nor funding for problem gambling resources.

MIGA and its members strongly believe a legal, regulated mobile sports betting framework is necessary to immediately shrink and ultimately end the illegal market that has preyed on Minnesota bettors for decades. Tribal gaming at Minnesota destinations is the most highly regulated gaming in the state, with an impeccable record of regulatory success and responsible management. Legal mobile sports betting operated by MN tribes would bring the activity under a strong regulatory construct to protect consumers and to provide needed resources to address problem gambling. Recent versions of a Minnesota sports wagering bill have included the strongest provisions to protect bettors of any law in the nation. MIGA tribes support those measures and are committed to the goal of addressing problem gambling responsibly, with thoughtful policy and new dedicated resources.

Gaming revenues have improved the lives of Native peoples and their communities in Minnesota for over 30 years. Legalizing mobile sports wagering with tribally exclusive licenses protects and strengthens tribes' ability to operate their sovereign governments and support their communities.

MIGA tribal leaders thank the Senate Finance Committee and Chair Marty for considering these important issues today. Minnesota tribes urge the Committee to recognize the value of a regulated market over an unregulated one, to help eliminate the illicit market and to continue the



long-standing policy of ensuring that legal gambling revenues support Minnesota's state and tribal governments' goals and programs.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andy Platto", written in a cursive style.

Andy Platto  
Executive Director, MN Indian Gaming Association