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Members and associates,

Another week gone by. We had our hearing in Senate Taxes this week and our bills (SF419/SF1069) were moved for possible inclusion in the omnibus tax bill, which is the best we can hope for at this point in time. You can watch the hearing [here](#).

Special thanks to our authors Senators Nelson and Pratt. Thanks to Glen Jenkins St. Paul Fire, Jeff Shafland Shakopee VFW, Mark Hickey Rochester Juvenile Hockey and Andru Peters Waseca County American Legion for their testimony.

MN Revenue is sticking to their story that relief for us will break the bank, specifically the US Bank Stadium bank. We are on record disputing their numbers, but it is really our word against theirs. They are saying that it will cost the government up to \$31 million per year to let us deduct our donations, which we know is wrong. Trouble is that legislators have to make budget decisions based on numbers and at some point they need to take the numbers that they are handed.

MN DOR is not supposed to be a political arm of the administration, but they do have the ability to shape a discussion. In our case, the inflated and inaccurate estimate is scaring people away. When the proposed relief is overestimated, as it is in our case, it continues to grow the state surplus year after year while we

struggle under the existing tax burden. Their piece of the pie keeps getting bigger and ours keeps getting smaller. Will we ever say ENOUGH is ENOUGH?

Now that we are done with committees in both the House and Senate, the real work begins. We all need to keep reinforcing with our legislators the importance of tax relief for us. More and more of us are going to be upside down this fiscal year, sending more to the state than we have for our communities and missions. This is WRONG, WRONG, WRONG. It is against everything that we believe in and stand for to do the work, take the risk and give the majority of the money to someone else, in this case the state. Nobody in business would put up with what we put up with.

Yesterday I testified at a hearing on a Daily Fantasy Sports (DFS) bill. DFS is where you can pay an amount, pick a team and win or lose money on a daily basis. They claim that it is not gambling that it is a skill based activity. States are divided on whether it is gambling or not. We see it as competition. You can see the gist of my testimony [here](#).

My point was that we have no issue with competition as long as they are licensed, regulated and taxed at our rates. Letting for profit companies such as Draft Kings and Fan Duel (the two largest players in their industry that are owned by the likes of the NFL, MLB, NBA and NHL) pay only the corporate tax rate of less than 10% (after deductions) is WRONG. All of their earnings leave the state, the vast majority of ours stays in our communities. Professional Sports Leagues purport to be anti-gambling, but owning DFS companies is ok. Professional Sports Leagues are the reason that we do not have the ability to use our Sports Themed Tip Boards that were approved for our use by the Legislature in 2012 as the state believes they would have us in court the minute we started using them. The Professional Sports League's hypocrisy would be laughable if it were not so sad.

Authors of HF226 continue to sign on. We now have 28. Representatives Dettmer, Davids, Lucero, Lien, Drazkowski, Knoblach, Marquart, Nash, Kresha, Howe, Daniels, Swedzinski, Lueck, Green, Lillie, Albright, Franson, McDonald, Nornes, Poppe, S. Anderson, Hoppe, Bennett, Baker, Bernardy, Runbeck, C. Bahr and Grossell. If your Representative is on the bill, thank them. If your Representative is not on the bill ask them to get on it.

Our Senate authors of SF419/SF1069 are Senators Nelson, Pratt, Limmer, P. Anderson, Newton, Eken and B. Anderson. If you Senator is on the bill, thank them. If you have not contacted your Senator and asked them to support our bill you need to do that.

From here on out all of the discussions surrounding relief for us will be held in private. If we do not have champions behind those closed doors we are in trouble. Leadership needs to hear from your Senator/Representative that this important to the folks back home. Senators Gazelka, Bakk, Chamberlain, Rosen, Rest, Franzen, Senjem, Eken, Fischbach, Miller, Limmer, Pratt, Dziejic, Ingebrigtsen, Dahms, Benson, P. Anderson and Representatives Daudt, Peppin, Davids, Kresha, Hortman, Marquart, Nash, Lien, Hoppe, Swedzinski are leaders that need to hear that our unfair treatment cannot continue.

The stadium is the weight around our neck. There are solutions that take care of the stadium bonds and provide relief for us. We want to work with government to find a solution that all sides can live with, but we have to have a seat at the table for that to happen. Without a seat at the table things will remain exactly as they are today, except next fiscal year you will most likely be paying more than you do today to the state.

If you have not invited your legislators to the reception on Monday, March 20 you still have time to do that. [Download the invitation here.](#)

Regards,

Al Lund

Executive Director

Allied Charities of Minnesota (ACM)

[Listen to our radio ad here and share it with your networks!](#)

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Bipartisan members of both the House and the Senate have voiced support for the Community Vitality Investment Act, but they need to hear from YOU. Here are three ways you can support tax relief for local charities:

1. **CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS** -- Find out who represents you and how to contact them [here](#). If you're not sure what to say, read some tips on contacting your legislators [here](#).
2. **LINK TO US ON YOUR WEBSITE** -- Ask your web manager to include a link to the Community Vitality Investment Act page on the ACM website. Your members will have easy access to the latest news on the bill. Here's the link: www.alliedcharitiesmn.org/Community-Vitality-Investment-Act
3. **FOLLOW US!** -- Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) and make sure to share our posts with your networks! Use #CVIA to make sure we see your posts.

SAVE THE DATE

MARCH 20, 2017

ACM will be holding our 2nd legislative reception for all State Representatives and Senators on Monday evening March 20 from 5 to 7:30 p.m. The event will be held at the Best Western Plus Capitol Ridge (Formerly the Kelly Inn, within walking distance of the capitol) 161 St. Anthony Ave. St. Paul, MN 55103. Please put this on your calendar. The idea is to share with our elected officials what we do in our communities and how current law hampers our ability to do more. Download an invitation [here](#) and keep watching the ACM website www.alliedcharitiesmn.org for details as they become available.



CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATOR!

Your voice matters--find out who represents you [here](#) and ask them to support the Community Vitality Investment Act.

REMINDER:

Please add alliedcharitiesmn@gmail.com to your contact list so we don't get caught in your spam folder!

