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## Members and associates,

Our Senate Tax Committee hearing has been scheduled for next Wednesday. If Senator Chamberlain, Gazelka, Bakk, Rest, P. Anderson, Pratt, Dziedzic, Senjem, Franzen or Miller is your Senator please call them or send them an e-mail asking for their support. Committee members Senator Pratt and Senator P. Anderson are on the bill. SF1069 is the bill number.

I have been hearing that only large charities are affected negatively by our current tax structure. The truth is that after expenses 200 of our organizations (who average the same 50% expense rate as the rest of our other 1000 organizations) pay more in taxes than they have for their communities and missions. Coon Rapids Little League, Mankato Eagles, Milaca Firefighters, Ottertail Lions, Pelican Rapids VFW, Pine City Youth Hockey and Ironton American Legion are not mega charities in my book.

If after expenses 200 Minnesota businesses were paying more in taxes than they had for their use the Governor and Legislature would be fixing that tomorrow as most of them would be leaving the state as fast as they could pack their bags.

Senator Bakk gave an impassioned speech this week on the Senate floor about the passing of small business on Main Street in small town Minnesota. For a time I thought that he was talking about us, but he wasn't. To me our groups

are of the same importance. We employ people, help keep the sites in business and contribute to our communities in many ways. We need to get relief to our organizations to keep them vital and contributing for a long time to come.

We are not huge conglomerates that only care about profits. We are small groups that are made up of folks from every walk of life in our communities. We are a large part of what is good about our communities. We are people helping people and our communities. When one of our organizations gives up their license there is a hole in the fabric of that community.

The 200 organizations ([see list](#)) that are paying more in taxes than they have for their communities/missions will only do so for so long. When I ask these groups why they keep their license they tell me "we employ people, bars depend on our rent and we do get a couple of bucks to the bottom line for our communities and missions". I understand and admire that, but it will only go on for so long. Eventually membership will get fed up with seeing so much money leaving their community and eventually vote to give up their license as the reward ceased being larger than the risk/work long ago.

As an organization you and your members can say that this is not your fight, but you are wrong. As written our legislation will benefit every single organization holding a gambling license, their mission and their community.

Also, we need to draw a line in the sand. It is against everything that most of us stand for and believe in to be taxed at such extreme rates.

If you think about it, state government is at the same time our oversight and our competition with the Lottery. The more our patrons support us, the better off government is and the worse off we are. Do you not see anything wrong with this picture?

This week the state announced that there is a greater surplus than had previously been forecasted. Ours is a fairness issue, but having the surplus should ease the issue of relief for us. This fiscal year we will be sending the state roughly \$61 million vs \$56 million last fiscal year. Our relief plan will cost approximately \$10 million when you consider our increased tax revenue. There is more than enough money to pay for the stadium, pay into the general fund and give us relief. Remember this is a great spend for the state. Unless we

give the money away we get no deduction/benefit. It is a dollar for dollar plan, there is no better spend.

If you have not yet expressed your thoughts on our Legislation (HF226/SF419/SF1069) to your legislators you need to do that. We will not be getting relief unless you do. Find out who represents you [here](#). If you need tips on how to contact your legislator or talking points on the legislation, you can find those [here](#). Also, it's important that you share this information with the organizations that benefit from your charitable contributions and other community leaders. We are calling this legislation The Community Vitality Investment Act because of what's at stake -- the \$60 million a year we are investing in our communities and the \$16 million that could be available if our charitable contributions were treated like those made by many for-profit businesses and individuals.

We will be starting our radio ads this coming week. A list of stations can be viewed [here](#) and you can listen to the ad [here](#). On-line advertising has commenced with the intent to drive traffic to the ACM website with all of the information about our relief plan.

Remember to invite your Legislators to the March 20 reception at the Best Western Capitol Ridge. Invite attached [here](#).

Regards,  
*Al Lund*

Executive Director  
Allied Charities of Minnesota (ACM)

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## **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](http://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.

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## 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](http://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](mailto:alliedcharitiesmn@gmail.com) to your contact list so we don't get caught in your spam folder!

**Add us to your contact list!**

