



Osseo Fire Department
415 Central Ave
Osseo, MN 55369
(763) 424-5444
DiscoverOsseo.com/departments/fire

March 21st, 2022

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my support of MN House Bill 4007, sponsored by Representative Kristin Bahner. This is a straightforward bill that simply lowers the tax rates paid by lawful charitable gambling organizations.

I have spent the last 16 years as a paid-on-call member of the Osseo Fire Department. For all but a few months of that tenure, I've also served as either the gambling manager or assistant gambling manager for the Osseo Fire Department Relief Association. I have seen first hand what it takes to operate charitable gambling profitably and what those funds mean to the community.

Since 2019, I've been serving as Fire Chief. I now get to struggle with the budgetary balancing act of keeping our department staffed, trained, and equipped to respond to a range of emergencies in our community while not overburdening taxpayers with yet more increases to their property taxes.

It's difficult for me to see dedicated staff working to raise much-needed funds for our community, and to see loyal patrons supporting our cause, only to see hundreds of thousands of dollars in taxes get sent out of Osseo down to Saint Paul every year. In 2021, our charity paid over \$206,000 in taxes. That is money that was raised in the community and could be put to good use in our community if we were allowed to keep more of it.

I fully support this bill and its goal of lowering the taxes paid by lawful charitable gambling organizations.

Thank you for your time and your consideration of this bill.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Phenow".

Mike Phenow
Chief, Osseo Fire Department
mike.phenow@ci.osseo.mn.us
(763) 226-1020 (cell)
415 Central Ave, Osseo, MN 55369