

April 4, 2022

Chair Nelson and members of the State Government Finance and Elections committee,

On behalf of Fire Departments across the state, we wish to express support for HF 531 to allow debit cards to be used for purchasing charitable raffle tickets over the telephone. Legalizing the ability to conduct raffle ticket sales over the phone by charitable non-profits will help organizations like ours to raise money that has gone up in smoke for the past two years from the COVID-19 crisis, which decimated our in-person fundraising efforts. We burst into burning buildings, it is a part of the job. But our job is also to fund it and no one could have prepared us for this four alarm fire Covid-19 has caused. It has changed how a number of organizations have relied so heavily on in-person gatherings to generate dollars and have not been able to do so. The challenges we faced over the last two years made clear that we need to modernize charitable fundraising to help our community adapt in this spirit of innovation, and we hope you will support HF 531 to legalize the conduct of charitable raffle ticket sales by phone by qualified nonprofits.

Modernization of nonprofit fundraising abilities is needed more now than ever. With many people still avoiding large public gatherings we need the freedom to and permission to adapt. Phone raffle legalization would revive one of the Minnesota nonprofit community's most valuable fundraising tools by allowing supporters to participate in charitable raffles safely and remotely.

Sincerely,

Brian Ripley-Boysen FireFighter- EMT
4060 57th St. W.
Webster, MN 55088

March 31, 2022

Re: HF531 Allowing raffle tickets to be sold by charitable organizations using debit cards via telephone

Dear Chair Nelson and members of the State Government Finance and Elections committee,

I have been a long term church member in another county and have since been attending church in your district. I have also been a member of other nonprofit organizations. Due to Covid and all the restrictions as a result of it, these organizations have had to resort to other methods of fundraising to stay afloat. In particular I want to state that I am proponent of allowing telephone raffle ticket sales to help these non profit entities.

I am requesting that you will help pass the HF531 to legalize phone charitable raffle tickets. I appreciate your attention with this matter.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Laurie Marks
359 Old Glory Drive
Alexandria Mn 56308

March 28, 2022

RE: Support, HF 531 allowing debit cards to be used for purchasing charitable raffle tickets over the telephone

Chair Nelson and members of the State Government Finance and Elections committee,

On behalf of our 165 dedicated supporters, we wish to express support for HF 531 to allow debit cards to be used for purchasing charitable raffle tickets over the telephone. Legalizing the ability to conduct raffle ticket sales over the phone by charitable non-profits will help organizations like ours recover from the COVID-19 crisis, which decimated our in-person fundraising efforts for nearly two straight years and prepare us for future disruptions to our traditional face-to-face activities. Our organization has raised money for wildlife habitat thanks in large part to our dedicated members and supporters who have traditionally given generously to our organization at these in-person events.

The pandemic presented unforeseen challenges to our organization who have relied so heavily on in-person gatherings to generate dollars for our mission. The challenges we faced over the last two years made clear that we need to modernize charitable fundraising to help our community adapt and respond, and in this spirit of innovation and resiliency, we are hopeful that you will support HF 531 to legalize the conduct of charitable raffle ticket sales by phone by qualified nonprofits.

Existing statute does not explicitly permit over-the-phone raffle ticket sales, nor does it explicitly prohibit them. The current regulatory agency with jurisdiction over charitable raffles (Minnesota Gambling Control Board) has taken the position that phone raffles are not permitted unless explicitly allowed under state law. It is therefore critically important to make this statutory clarification so that qualified nonprofits can remain healthy long into the future.

Modernization of nonprofit fundraising abilities is needed more now than ever. With many of our supporters still avoiding large public gatherings we need the freedom to and permission to adapt. Phone raffle legalization would revive one of the Minnesota nonprofit community's most valuable fundraising tools by allowing supporters to participate in charitable raffles safely and remotely.

Sincerely,

Diane Kolstoe
27536 180th St NE
Oklee, MN 56742
Membership Chairman of Red Lake County Ducks Unlimited

RE: Support, HF 531 allowing debit cards to be used for purchasing charitable raffle tickets over the telephone

Chair Nelson and members of the State Government Finance and Elections committee,

On behalf of our 500 plus members Northwest Ducks Unlimited Chapter of dedicated supporters, we wish to express support for HF 531 to allow debit cards to be used for purchasing charitable raffle tickets over the telephone. Legalizing the ability to conduct raffle ticket sales over the phone by charitable non-profits will help organizations like ours recover from the COVID-19 crisis, which decimated our in-person fundraising efforts for nearly two straight years and prepare us for future disruptions to our traditional face-to-face activities. Our organization has raised money to help support in state hunting and bird watching activity that supports the entire state of Minnesota thanks in large part to our dedicated members and supporters who have traditionally given generously to our organization at these in-person events.

The pandemic presented unforeseen challenges to our organization who have relied so heavily on in-person gatherings to generate dollars for our mission. The challenges we faced over the last two years made clear that we need to modernize charitable fundraising to help our community adapt and respond, and in this spirit of innovation and resiliency, we are hopeful that you will support HF 531 to legalize the conduct of charitable raffle ticket sales by phone by qualified nonprofits.

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Sincerely,

Rick Kezar, Chairman
20249 210th St NE
Thief River Falls, MN 56701
Northwest Ducks Unlimited Chapter

RE: Support, HF 531 allowing debit cards to be used for purchasing charitable raffle tickets over the telephone

Chair Nelson and members of the State Government Finance and Elections committee,

On behalf of our 150-250 dedicated supporters here southern MN, we wish to express support for HF 531 to allow debit cards to be used for purchasing charitable raffle tickets over the telephone. Legalizing the ability to conduct raffle ticket sales over the phone by charitable non-profits will help organizations like ours recover from the COVID-19 crisis, which decimated our in-person fundraising efforts for nearly two straight years and prepare us for future disruptions to our traditional face-to-face activities. Our organization has provided necessary funds for wetland and wildlife restoration thanks in large part to our dedicated members and supporters who have traditionally given generously to our organization at these in-person events. These efforts have allowed us to, in an area of Minnesota that desperately needs public access to hunting and outdoor activities, develop with MNDNR and Ducks Unlimited, grounds accessible to persons that do NOT have private access to recreational areas. As importantly, perhaps more so, it also has provided habitat in an area where wild critters have literally VERY FEW places to rest, feed, and build the next generations for our children and grand children to experience what Minnesotans rate as part of the quality of life here.

The pandemic presented unforeseen challenges to our organization who have relied so heavily on in-person gatherings to generate dollars for our mission. The challenges we faced over the last two years made clear that we need to modernize charitable fundraising to help our community adapt and respond, and in this spirit of innovation and resiliency, we are hopeful that you will support HF 531 to legalize the conduct of charitable raffle ticket sales by phone by qualified nonprofits.

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Modernization of nonprofit fundraising abilities is needed more now than ever. With many of our supporters still avoiding large public gatherings we need the freedom to and permission to adapt. Phone raffle legalization would revive one of the Minnesota nonprofit community's most valuable fundraising tools by allowing supporters to participate in charitable raffles safely and remotely.

Sincerely,
Mark E. Jenzen,
Lost Marsh Ducks Unlimited (for 43 years)
10220 614th Ave.
Minnesota Lake, MN 56068

Dear Chair Nelson and members of the State Government Finance and Elections committee,

I'm writing in support of HF531 to allow debit cards to be used for charitable raffle ticket sales over the phone.

I belong to Ducks Unlimited, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, The VFW, Ruffed Grouse Society, Yellow Ribbon Network, Disabled American Veterans as well as a few others. I can't think of a single one that wouldn't benefit from passage of HF531!

Several of these were knocked to their knees during the pandemic and would benefit greatly with the ability to add this dimension to their fundraising efforts. They all receive financial support from their members and supporters through fundraisers and other events BUT many have in recent times and continue to stay away from any gatherings due to health concerns, and the necessary dollars have stayed home with them.

Please, please, please seriously consider throwing your support to HF531.

Mike Dvorak
5898 Olinda Ave. No.
Stillwater, MN 55082
mikedvorak8@comcast.net

03/30/2022

RE: Support, HF 531 allowing debit cards to be used for purchasing charitable raffle tickets over the telephone

Chair Nelson and members of the State Government Finance and Elections committee,

On behalf of our 7,500 dedicated supporters, we wish to express support for HF 531 to allow debit cards to be used for purchasing charitable raffle tickets over the telephone. Legalizing the ability to conduct raffle ticket sales over the phone by charitable non-profits will help organizations like ours recover from the COVID-19 crisis, which decimated our in-person fundraising efforts for nearly two straight years and prepare us for future disruptions to our traditional face-to-face activities. Our organization has primary support in wetlands conservation across local communities, states, and North America thanks in large part to our dedicated members and supporters who have traditionally given generously to our organization at these in-person events.

The pandemic presented unforeseen challenges to our organization who have relied so heavily on in-person gatherings to generate dollars for our mission. The challenges we faced over the last two years made clear that we need to modernize charitable fundraising to help our community adapt and respond, and in this spirit of innovation and resiliency, we are hopeful that you will support HF 531 to legalize the conduct of charitable raffle ticket sales by phone by qualified nonprofits.

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Modernization of nonprofit fundraising abilities is needed more now than ever. With many of our supporters still avoiding large public gatherings we need the freedom to and permission to adapt. Phone raffle legalization would revive one of the Minnesota nonprofit community's most valuable fundraising tools by allowing supporters to participate in charitable raffles safely and remotely.

Sincerely,

Dalton Rosin

14689 Finn n Feather Blvd SE Bemidji, MN 56601

3/31/2022

RE: Support, HF 531 allowing debit cards to be used for purchasing charitable raffle tickets over the telephone

Chair Nelson and members of the State Government Finance and Elections committee,

As a dedicated supporter of Ducks Unlimited, I wish to express support for HF 531 to allow debit cards to be used for purchasing charitable raffle tickets over the telephone. Legalizing the ability to conduct raffle ticket sales over the phone by charitable non-profits will help organizations like Ducks Unlimited recover from the COVID-19 crisis, which decimated in-person fundraising efforts for nearly two straight years.

The challenges faced over the last two years made clear that we need to modernize charitable fundraising to help our community adapt and respond, and in this spirit of innovation and resiliency, we are hopeful that you will support HF 531 to legalize the conduct of charitable raffle ticket sales by phone by qualified nonprofits.

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Modernization of nonprofit fundraising abilities is needed more now than ever. With many supporters still avoiding large public gatherings Ducks Unlimited needs the freedom to and permission to adapt. Phone raffle legalization would revive one of the Minnesota nonprofit community's most valuable fundraising tools by allowing supporters to participate in charitable raffles safely and remotely.

Sincerely,

Adam Wendt
26979 Hwy 104
Glenwood, MN 56334