

Sept 21, 2018

Senator Tom Tiffany  
PO Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Senator Tiffany,

This week I attended a meeting in Crandon that was hosted by the Chamber of Congress. The auditor for the WI Gaming Commission was the speaker. The message he came to Forest County to deliver was that most of the charitable fundraising going on here is illegal. The second part of the message was that FC is now on the WI Gaming Commission's radar and future violations will be prosecuted with the minimum sentence being \$1000 fine and 30 days in jail.

The types of fundraising techniques being referred to are unlicensed raffles, paddle wheels and dice games. These are the activities FCAL is most concerned with because of the large number of Lake Associations holding fundraising events over the summer months that employ these targeted games.

You are aware, I am sure, of the very large amounts of money being required of Lake Associations to fight the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species that threaten our beautiful lakes. Although many Wisconsinites enjoy Forest County lakes and streams, it is the people living on the lakes who must bear the monetary and labor burdens for keeping them healthy. Our legislators are fond of telling us how much money is being allocated for environmental causes but what is not in the news is how difficult it is to obtain these funds and how much citizen involvement is needed to do so. The funds are always given in the form of "matching grants" and so the Lake Associations applying for aid must find a way to raise these matching funds.

Our Lake Associations are a model of citizens in action, taking responsibility for protecting their community. While we understand that government money can only be raised in the form of taxes and no-one wants to pay more property tax, we have been doing our part to jump through the hoops and raise the money ourselves. We are not Lake Association employees but we are all volunteers. Volunteers seem to be a vanishing breed. It is getting harder and harder to find people willing to fill these positions of leadership. This threat of legal prosecution will certainly decimate our volunteer forces even further.

The question FCAL's Board of Directors has asked me to pose is, is there is any way that our Lake Associations could be exempt from penalty for using these games as fundraising devices when the funds are clearly being used to maintain or improve the lake communities we live in?

Clean lakes and streams are Forest County's life blood. Thank you for being our partner in caring for these irreplaceable resources.

Sincerely,

Pamela Schroeder / 2018 President of the Forest County Association of Lakes /  
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