



To: House Appropriations Committee

Re: SB 2018

Date: March 15, 2021

Chairman Monson,

I am asking you and your committee to consider fully supporting SB 2018. Hospitality in North Dakota is poised to lead the post-COVID 19 recovery in North Dakota and your action will ensure our State stays and grows in this competitive marketplace.

Americans have returned to the lakes, rivers, parks, and outdoors to safely enjoy family and friend travel. North Dakota has an abundance of these opportunities. As our country continues to work towards ending the COVID pandemic the pent-up demand for tourism is going to be strong.

North Dakota Tourism can help our state take advantage of this opportunity but needs the funding to retain and grow our industry. Tourism touches every county in North Dakota and has become a 4-season job grower across the State. The last 30 years have seen amazing growth in facilities, services and opportunities for our guests.

Woodland Resort would not have grown or prospered without the efforts of ND State Tourism. What was once a 4-employee business now retains 50 full-time employees. We are an example of the results that happen from the professional leadership at ND Tourism. Real nonresident spending = job growth and new wealth to North Dakota. Let us keep moving forward. Now is the time to make the investments to ensure North Dakota is not left out.

Please do not let this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity pass us by. Fully and wisely invest in North Dakota Tourism and we will continue to hire, build, and grow our economies across North Dakota.

Please pass SB2018 including the 7 million one-time investment. We need your help and support.

Kyle Blanchfield

Owner, Woodland Resort on Devils Lake, ND