

Dear Representative Nathe,

Chairman, House Appropriations – Education and Environment Division

I am writing to express my strong support for the Department of Commerce Appropriations bill, SB 2018, which funds critical economic development programs in North Dakota. As the Founder of Xtra Apparel I have directly benefited from the Innovate ND Program administered through CTB/NDWBC, which will be instrumental in growing my business and helping us create the first ever size guide specific to the Down syndrome community.

I am just getting started with the program, and am excited to experience the business coaching and funding provided through this program. It will help in providing these key benefits:

- Customer Research & Engagement
- Expert Business Coaching
- Market Research and Development
- Networking & Community Engagement

Without this support, it would have been significantly more challenging to develop plans for customer research and host events where we can collect measurements and clothing preferences of this born with Down syndrome. Programs like Innovate ND not only help individual businesses but also contribute to North Dakota's broader economic development by fostering innovation, job creation, and industry growth.

I urge you to support Innovate ND in SB 2018 to ensure businesses like mine continue to have access to the resources necessary for success. Thank you for your time and

consideration. If you would like to discuss my experience further, please feel free to contact me at 612-710-9036 or by emailing me at kylevoltin@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Kyle Voltin

Xtra Apparel

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