

Dear Representative, Nathe,

I am writing to emphasize the critical role the North Dakota Women's Business Center (NDWBC) plays in supporting our state's small business owners and to request your support for essential funding through SB 2018 to sustain and expand its impact.

I am Patti Shelkey, owner of Country Hillside Designs in Ryder, North Dakota. Over the past few years, I have worked with NDWBC to develop key business skills, strengthen my business foundation, connect with potential clients and collaborators, and expand my impact in my community. Living in rural North Dakota often means limited access to the business education and resources available in larger cities. NDWBC has bridged this gap, making education and networking opportunities accessible for entrepreneurs like me.

Investing in NDWBC ensures that small business owners have access to critical tools such as financial management workshops, hiring guidance, and networking opportunities. Without NDWBC, I would not have been able to grow my business on my own.

With your support, NDWBC can continue to provide these vital services, helping more entrepreneurs turn their visions into sustainable businesses. Thank you for considering this important funding request.

Please feel free to reach out if I can share more about NDWBC's impact.

Warm regards,

Patti Shelkey  
Owner, Country Hillside Designs  
18000 226<sup>th</sup> ST SW  
Ryder, ND 58779  
701-340-7415