

March 17, 2025

Dear Senator/Representative,

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 2018, which is crucial for continuing the funding and support of North Dakota's Department of Commerce programs that are vital for startups like Valor Victoria.

As the VP of Finance at Valor Victoria, I have firsthand experience of the challenges startups face in securing commercial lending. Traditional financial pathways often overlook the unique needs and potential risks associated with new ventures. However, the North Dakota Department of Commerce has filled this critical financing gap through its innovative programs such as the Legacy Investment for Technology (LIFT) program and the North Dakota Development Fund (NDDF) loans.

These programs have been instrumental in our development and growth. The LIFT program provided us with the necessary capital to advance our technology and scale operations, while NDDF loans offered the flexible financial solutions that were otherwise inaccessible through conventional commercial lending. This support has not only allowed us to thrive but also to contribute to the local economy by creating jobs and fostering innovation in North Dakota.

The continuation of these programs is essential not only for Valor Victoria but also for the broader entrepreneurial ecosystem in our state. I urge you to vote in favor of SB 2018, ensuring that other startups can also benefit from these invaluable resources.

Thank you for considering my views on this matter. I am available to provide further information or discuss how these programs have specifically impacted our company and the local community.

Sincerely,

Kyle Walter VP of Finance

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