North Dakota

Travel Alliance Partnership

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MEMBERS America's Best Value Inn & Suites **Basin Electric Power Cooperative Bismarck Airport Bismarck-Mandan CVB** Bottineau Area Chamber of Commerce **Destination Marketing** Association of North Dakota Devils Lake CVB Dickinson CVB Eastbay Campground Fargo Air Museum Fargo-Moorhead CVB Friends of Lake Sakakawea Greater Grand Forks CVB Hampton Inn & Suites Minot Airport Jamestown Tourism Leistikow Park Campground Lone Butte Ranch/Log Cabin Vacations McKenzie County Tourism Minot Convention & Visitors Bureau Missouri Valley Heritage Alliance/ Fort Abraham Lincoln Foundation Municipal Airport Authority of the City of Fargo National Hospitality Services Newman Outdoor Advertising Norsk Hostfest Association North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives North Dakota State Fair North Dakota Tourism Division (ex-officio) Odney **Rocky Mountain International** Roosevelt Park Zoo State Historical Society of North Dakota Foundation Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation Valley City CVB/Shevenne RV Scenic Byway Vern's Rental Williston CVB

Testimony of Kyle Martin

Executive Director Travel Alliance Partnership

In support of HB 1425 March 24, 2021

Chairman Holmberg and members of the Senate Appropriations Committee:

My name is Kyle Martin, executive director of the ND Travel Alliance Partnership (ND TAP). ND TAP is a coalition of travel industry stakeholders, including CVB's, state attractions, businesses, and other interested stakeholders, in this number three industry of North Dakota's economy.

ND TAP supports the use of Legacy Funds to support tourism infrastructure development. HB 1425 could support tourism infrastructure by utilizing Legacy Funds to invest in new destinations and attractions, improving the marketability of communities across our region. Tourism supports many communities and small businesses throughout North Dakota and serves as a valuable economic development tool. Workers, for example, do not often relocate to a state without visiting it first. In essence, an investment in tourism is an investment in economic development.

By utilizing Legacy Fund investments to support new attractions and destination projects, North Dakota can provide more incentive for travelers to visit our state and communities, who in turn support numerous small businesses and could potentially relocate to the state, churning the wheels of economic development.

ND TAP respectfully asks for your support of HB 1425.