

North Dakota

Travel Alliance Partnership

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MEMBERS

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 Greater Grand Forks CVB
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 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
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 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)
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 State Historical Society of
 North Dakota Foundation
 Theodore Roosevelt Medora
 Foundation
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 Scenic Byway
 Vern's Rental
 Williston CVB

Testimony of Terri Thiel

Chair, Travel Alliance Partnership

In support of HB 1284

April 5, 2021

Chair Larson and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

My name is Terri Thiel, and I am the chair of the North Dakota Travel Alliance Partnership (ND TAP). ND TAP is a coalition of travel industry stakeholders, including CVBs, state attractions, businesses and other interested stakeholders, in this viable and growing sector of North Dakota's economy. On behalf of the tourism industry and its partners, I am writing to voice support for HB 1284.

HB 1284 gives local governing bodies the ability to grant permits that allow co-mingling at events. Currently, events that permit the sale of alcohol other than beer or wine must designate a separate area for individuals 21 years of age and over or ban the presence of minors entirely. Passage of HB 1284 would grant local governing bodies the discretion to issue permits, for both public and private events, on a case-by-case basis allowing co-mingling at events where liquor is sold.

Events are important to the hospitality industry as they draw visitors into communities who in turn support small businesses through spending. This would open events, on a case-by-case basis, to more individuals, businesses (such as micro-distilleries) and tourists.

It is no secret the COVID-19 pandemic severely impacted the tourism industry as many public events were cancelled. Events and communities need the assistance provided in HB 1284 as the tourism industry seeks to recover by allowing populations to attend events who would have been barred from doing so previously.

Tourism plays an important role in sustaining quality of life for all of North Dakota, and HB 1284 strengthens the tourism industry by allowing local governments the ability to authorize co-mingling at events. Therefore, ND TAP asks the Senate Judiciary Committee to recommend a do-pass on HB 1284.