March 6, 2023

To: House Appropriations Education and Environment Committee

Re: State Water Commission Budget - Senate Bill 2020

Dear Representative Nathe and Committee Members,

I am Terri Thiel, the Executive Director for the Dickinson Convention & Visitors Bureau. I am writing in support of the budget for the ND State Water Commission that is being presented to your committee.

My representation for support for the bill includes the importance of the visitor experience in western North Dakota. Travelers are fully expecting quality drinking water when they are on their vacation along with other toiletry functions in a lodging property. The visitor experiences encompass not only larger communities, but also the smaller, rural towns, and agritourism businesses, making the support of SW Water Pipeline Projects vital for all southwest North Dakota.

The future Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library will be constructed soon in Medora. This legacy project will be bringing visitors from all over the across the country to experience his time in the badlands and the shaping of his political future. The infrastructure that will be needed to be put into place to service the visitors is important. The visitor experience also spreads over to Dickinson and the surrounding areas with the overflow of travelers.

The Dickinson Convention & Visitors Bureau asks for your support of Senate Bill 2020 to improve the quality of the visitor experience, and to support future entrepreneurship tourism businesses that wish to also provide a good quality water experience.

Sincerely,

Terri Thiel

Executive Director

Dickinson Convention & Visitors Bureau
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