

**Dickinson Museum Center**

**Badlands Dinosaur Museum  
Joachim Regional Museum  
Pioneer Machinery Hall  
Prairie Outpost Park**

March 7, 2023

Chairman Nathe and members of the House Appropriations – Education and Environment Committee:

My name is Robert Fuhrman and I am the director of the Dickinson Museum Center, writing to lend my support for HB 1018.

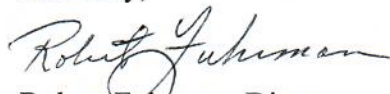
I have been a museum director for over 30 years, working in four different states for museums of various sizes in small and medium-sized cities. While the challenge of a new locale led me to work in North Dakota, over the past six years I have come to appreciate the energy and enthusiasm of my fellow North Dakotans for both their history and pre-history – and how enthusiastic the traveling public is for visiting our museums.

Every summer our attendance swells and the weeks speed by as visitors from across our nation and beyond come through our doors – many of them new hires in various North Dakota industries who, I like to believe, appreciate the quality of life attractions and centers of learning represented by ours and the many fine museums across our state. I also believe that our museums compare very favorably to attractions throughout our region and can only take the next steps to rise above other state's offerings by a dramatic increase in support for quality of life initiatives that will expand and improve our cultural amenities such as museums, zoos and performing arts spaces. It is this belief that spurs me to encourage you to consider supporting the Destination Development Fund appropriation.

In Dickinson, we have been asked to consider how we might grow to better serve our visitors, expand our offerings and continue to develop our vibrant paleontology program to continue the upward attendance track that began six years ago when we became a department of the City of Dickinson. Our potential to grow, and indeed the growth of all of North Dakota's attractions can be realized by a robust Destination Development Fund appropriation.

Thank you for your kind attention to my testimony.

Sincerely,



Robert Fuhrman, Director  
Dickinson Museum Center