

March 10, 2023

To: Senate Appropriations Government Operations Committee

Re: HB 1018 – ND Tourism Division

Dear Senator Wanzek and Committee Members,

I am Kaelee Wallace, marketing and communications manager for the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation. TRMF supports the tourism efforts in Medora as basecamp to TR National Park, host to the Maah Daah Hey Trail, and home to the Medora Musical.

As a partner of the ND Tourism Division and on behalf of the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation, I am writing to voice support for HB 1018.

\$50 million for the Destination Development Fund would help enrich tourism offerings across the state. Specifically in Medora there is a great opportunity to grow and expand tourism offerings through funding such as this. Future projects on our radar include growing our western heritage footprint, expanding outdoor trail experiences, and offering even more entertainment than we do now. All of these are earmarked with the intent to grow the tourism economy to and through Medora and North Dakota.

I also support the requested budget for the ND Tourism Division. As a partner of ND Tourism we endlessly appreciate their advocating for our destination, the marketing effort they are making beyond the bound of North Dakota, and the partner programs they host. All of this while also making a strategic pivot to linking workforce development and tourism development is no easy feat and requires an investment to do so.

We all understand the joys of living and working in North Dakota, I'm sure it's a main reason you have taken up an elected seat. By passing this bill we will allow the team at ND Tourism to share that experience with even more great folks that will put dollars back into our state.

**Please support the Governor's recommendation for ND Tourism HB 1018**