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March 9, 2023

HB 1018 Support Letter

Chairman Nathe and Committee members:

My name is Curtis Glasoe and I am the President of the Maah Daah Hey(MDH) Trail Association. Our non profit organization's mission is to promote and help maintain the MDH trail system. We have around 150 members from all over the United States and Canada. MDH trail usage has really gone up the last few years, for many reasons. COVID, social media presence, ND Tourism and local CVBs promotions are some of the main ones. According to actual trail counters at Sully Creek Camp south of Medora, during the 3 month period, June-August, in 2022 over 7500 users were on the trail from this trailhead. Using a conservative estimating procedure, we estimate over 35,000 people used the non-motorized 144 mile MDH trail during the 2022 calendar year. The addition of the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library, located next to the MDH, will also have a large impact on the MDH trail system, so this bill comes at a very appropriate time.

The MDHTA has numerous contacts and requests for trail information and additional guided services on the MDH trail system. Our organization is completely driven by volunteers and we can only do so much without additional outside help and marketing of the great recreation opportunities that exist in Southwestern North Dakota.

We support HB 1018 and appreciate this opportunity to comment on the bill.

Thank You very much. Happy Trails.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Curtis W. Glasoe". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Curtis W. Glasoe, PLS, PE

President - MDHTA