



Huff Hills Ski Area Testimony in Support of SB 1018

Good morning, Chairmen Wanzek and members of the committee,

My name is Andrew Beck, and I am the Mountain Operations Manager for Huff Hills Ski Area, inc. I am here today in support of SB 1018.

Many of our tourism destinations, like Huff Hills, are private businesses and provide various recreation and cultural opportunities to residents and visitors to ND. They are a unique and integral part of the North Dakota business landscape by providing quality of life for residents, supporting workforce development, and increasing visitation to our towns and cities across the state.

Many of these businesses are seasonal and weather dependent, making it challenging to have a reliable source of capital for significant projects. By fully funding the tourism development grants at the original \$50 million –

- Money can flow toward legacy projects that impact destination tourism businesses.
- These improvements and expansions can be made at the proper times to grow options for activities further and coordinate with other developments and tourism efforts in the region and across the state.

Without this additional support, projects often wait for the “perfect year” of weather, visitor numbers, and many other factors out of our control. By providing funds toward these projects, projects can be jumpstarted, and our tourism businesses can offer additional reasons for people to visit, stay or relocate to ND.

Spending time outdoors is essential for improving the health and well-being of all of us in ND. The recent renewed focus from state tourism on year-round outdoor recreation has been well received, and we hope to continue to see the state emphasize winter recreation. Huff Hills has seen an increase in the number of young families that are embracing wintertime, rather than waiting for the season to end. Huff Hills supports fully funding state tourism’s marketing budget.

Thank you, and please support SB 1018.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Beck", is written over the typed name and title.

Andrew Beck
Mountain Operations Manager
Huff Hills Ski Area, Inc