

To: The Senate Appropriations Committee – Government Operations Division  
From: Hugh Alan Drexler  
Date: Friday March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
Re: Testimony in support of HB 1018

My name is Hugh Drexler and I represent the North Dakota Horse Park in Fargo, North Dakota. I'm providing written testimony in support of HB 1018. I have just completed my first year with the horse park and truly appreciate the immense impact that tourism has, not only for our venue but for other local businesses. The people of North Dakota have a unique opportunity to expand tourism while maintaining that "small town feel" that many seek when deciding where to visit.

With additional funding from the Destination Development Fund, businesses like the North Dakota Horse Park can create additional opportunities to provide jobs and establish year-round venues that will attract tourists for a variety of reasons. Our goal at the Horse Park is to create a year-round, multi-use facility surrounded by entertainment opportunities, restaurants, bars, and retail space. This will create an opportunity to marry different amenities with the experience of professional live horse racing.

The North Dakota horse park is a seasonal tourism destination that directly impacts the dollars spent and wagered in the State of North Dakota. The benefit from these funds to the North Dakota Horse Park would be significant to further develop the tourism offerings of the state.

I would like to thank the Senate Appropriations Committee for the opportunity to testify and for listening. I urge you to support HB 1018 and help continue the promotion of tourism in North Dakota.