

North Dakota

Travel Alliance Partnership

February 27, 2023

Senator Terry Wanzek
Senate Appropriations Committee Government Operations Division Chairman
ND Senate – ND State Capitol
600 E. Boulevard Ave.
Bismarck, ND 58505

Dear Chairman Wanzek:


My name is James Pursley and I am the executive director of the North Dakota Travel Alliance Partnership. TAP is a coalition of travel industry stakeholders, including CVBs, state attractions, businesses and other interested stakeholders, in this viable and growing sector of North Dakota's economy.

TAP supported the \$50 million Destination Development Fund and \$25 million workforce talent attraction initiative proposed in executive budget recommendations for the 2023-25 biennium and opposed the large initial cuts by the House Appropriations Education and Environment Division. TAP requested a restoration of the funding and the House subcommittee came back with \$25 million and \$8 million that the House ultimately sent to the Senate for consideration.

TAP asks your committee to consider restoring the funding to the full \$50 million and \$25 million. While fully understanding the pressure placed on lawmakers this session, we believe partnerships created through the Destination Development Fund and the workforce talent attraction initiative will lead to new attractions and activities and the necessary workforce needed to motivate out-of-state travel, keep visitors in the state longer and aid in workforce recruitment and retention.

I ask that you reconsider the reductions made to these two vital elements in HB 1018.

Sincerely,



James Pursley
ND Travel Alliance Partnership