



North Dakota Native Vote
919 S 7th Street
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February 11, 2025

Testimony of Erika Red Tomahawk,
Tribal-State Policy Coordinator, North Dakota Native Vote
In Support for HB 1581

Dear Chairman Schauer, Vice-Chairman Satrom, and members of the Government and Veterans Affairs Committee,

My name is Erika Red Tomahawk, and I represent North Dakota Native Vote, an organization dedicated to empowering Native American communities, addressing systemic disparities, and ensuring our voices are heard. I am writing to you today in strong support of HB 1581, a bill that proposes the appropriation of \$500,000 in state funds for the purpose of providing tribal tourism grants through the Department of Commerce.

The establishment of a grant program for tribal tourism is a meaningful step toward supporting the economic growth and cultural preservation of Native communities in North Dakota. These funds would allow tribal governments to apply for grants of up to \$100,000 to promote and enhance tourism opportunities that showcase the rich history, culture, and traditions of our Native nations.

The potential benefits of HB 1581 are significant:

- Economic Growth
- Cultural Preservation and Education
- Empowerment of Tribal Government
- Strengthening Statewide Tourism
- Fostering Greater Collaboration

By supporting HB 1581, we are taking a proactive step toward not only enhancing the economic landscape of Native communities but also ensuring that North Dakota remains a place where Native American history, culture, and traditions are celebrated and shared with the world.

I urge the Government and Veterans Affairs Committee to give HB 1581 a **“Do Pass” recommendation**. By investing in tribal tourism, we are investing in the cultural, economic, and social growth of all the people of North Dakota. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kind regards,
Erika Red Tomahawk