

February 12, 2025

Tamara St John  
Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate  
Tribal Archives and Collections

**RE: Support for HB 1581 – Funding for Tribal Tourism Development**

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

I am writing to express my strong support for HB 1581, which could provide critical funding for tribal tourism development in North Dakota. As a Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate tribal member and a board member of the North Dakota Native Tourism Alliance (NDNTA), I have witnessed the immense potential of tribal tourism to drive economic growth, preserve cultural heritage, and create opportunities for Indigenous communities.

Tourism centered on Native American history and culture attracts visitors from across the country and around the world. By investing in tribal tourism, North Dakota not only enhances its economy but also strengthens relationships with tribal nations, supporting small businesses, artisans, tour operators, and hospitality industries in rural and tribal communities.

This funding is:

- Economic Development – Stimulating job creation and entrepreneurial growth in tribal communities.
- Cultural Preservation – Ensuring that Native traditions, stories, and cultural lifeways are preserved.
- Educational Opportunities – Promoting greater public awareness and appreciation of North Dakota's Indigenous heritage.

HB 1581 is a meaningful investment in both North Dakota's tourism industry and the Indigenous nations that have shaped its history. I urge you and your colleagues to support this important legislation, ensuring that tribal tourism continues to thrive as a key part of North Dakota's economic and cultural landscape.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Tamara St John

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