

1/20/25

Dear North Dakota Legislators,

My name is Dr. Gregory B. Carlson and I am the chair of the Communication Studies and Theatre Art department at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota. I was born in North Dakota and am a North Dakota resident. I am also the co-founder of the North Dakota Film Society.

I am writing in strong support of HB 1438 for the positive good it will provide for the Fargo community and beyond. The Fargo Theatre has been an essential part of my life since my father took me to see "Star Wars" there in 1977. I am now 52 years old but hardly more than a week has gone by since my childhood that I have not visited the Fargo Theatre to see a movie.

As a building recognized on the National Register of Historic Places, the Fargo Theatre and its marquee – as instantly recognizable symbols of the community – have become well-known landmarks that appeal to locals and tourists alike.

As the Fargo Theatre approaches its centennial, the matching grant opportunity offers a sterling investment that reflects the values of maintaining historic buildings for future generations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Gregory Carlson