

My name is Kendra O'Brien, and I'm writing in support of House Bill 1438.

For 98 years, the Fargo Theatre has been a shining presence at the heart of Fargo's downtown. House Bill 1438 is an investment in North Dakota's history and legacy, helping a non-profit that builds community, generates tourism dollars, and preserves the cultural heritage of our state.

When I came to Fargo in 1997, I had not seen anything like the Fargo Theatre, either in design or the independent filmmaking it showcased. The Fargo Theatre and Fargo Film Festival created a community for me that made me want to make Fargo my home after I finished my undergraduate and Master's degrees at NDSU.

The Fargo Theatre was there for my grandmother when she was an NDSU student in the 1930s, and was the site of my wedding and my son's first movie. I will be donating to the capital campaign to help keep it around in the hopes that future generations will have happy memories there too.

That the Fargo Theatre has survived for 98 years is a testament to North Dakotans willingness to work hard to preserve this valuable landmark. Please support bill 1438 to invest in the theatre's next century in downtown Fargo.

Kendra O'Brien
Fargo, ND