



P.O. Box 2747
Fargo, ND 58108

January 21, 2025

The Honorable Jonathan Warrey
Chairman, House Industry, Business & Labor Committee
North Dakota State Legislature
Bismarck, ND 58059

RE: Support for HB 1438

Dear Chairman Warrey and Members of the IBL Committee,

I am writing to express Xcel Energy's support for HB 1438 to provide match funding to sustain and enhance the Fargo Theatre, one of North Dakota's most iconic cultural landmarks and an integral part of North Dakota's identity. Please know that Xcel Energy was the first business to make a private financial investment to the 2026 public/private capital campaign.

Since its opening in 1926, the Fargo Theatre has stood as a beacon of arts, culture, and community in North Dakota. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, this beautifully restored Art Deco treasure is more than a movie theater—it is a gathering place that brings people together to celebrate film, live performances, and cultural experiences that enrich the lives of residents and visitors alike.

As a major economic driver, the Fargo Theatre attracts thousands of visitors each year, contributing significantly to the local and state economy. It serves as a hub for cultural tourism, supporting nearby businesses and fostering a vibrant downtown Fargo. Events like the Fargo Film Festival draw participants and audiences from across the region, boosting hospitality, dining, and retail industries.

Despite its enduring success, the Fargo Theatre requires continued investment to maintain its historic structure and expand its programming capabilities. Funding from the North Dakota Legislature would support critical facility upgrades, preservation efforts, and operational needs, ensuring the Theatre remains a cornerstone of culture and community for future generations.

Your support would not only preserve a beloved landmark but also affirm the state's commitment to fostering cultural heritage, economic growth, and community well-being. I respectfully urge the committee to allocate funding to the Fargo Theatre, recognizing its invaluable contributions to North Dakota's past, present, and future.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and dedication to supporting the arts in our state. Please feel free to contact me at 701.261.4691 or tony.s.grindberg@xcelenergy.com if I can provide additional information or assistance.

Sincerely,

Tony Grindberg

Xcel Energy
State Director, ND