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Dear House Representatives,

I am writing to you as a Fargo Theatre Board Member in support of HB-1438.

The Fargo Theatre is one of my favorite places in the world. It is part of the foundation of my youth. After we moved to Fargo from Minot in 1988, my mother worked at Dakota Hospital. Every December, Dakota put on a holiday event where staff performed for audience members. I had a huge crush on an orderly and I can still picture myself sitting in the fourth row on the side watching him perform. All throughout high school, I went to movies at the Fargo Theatre. My favorite movie for years was Shine, which I saw while sitting in the balcony with a friend from Shanley.

I left for Northeastern University in 1999 and loved a local, independent theatre in Boston while I lived there, but Fargo's historic theatre has always been my favorite. Every time I was home for the holidays, I would make sure to see as many movies as I could at the Fargo Theatre. I had the iconic poster in my dorm room of Moscow, London, Paris and Fargo and people would come to my room and say "oh, you're from Fargo?" Through that poster with the seminal Fargo Theatre marquee, they recognized Fargo.

Twenty-five years later, I have moved back to Fargo and am pleased to serve as a Board Member for the Theatre. My friends fly to Fargo to visit me and they always want to see the Fargo Theatre in person. It is an icon for people from all over. Since moving back, I have attended dozens of community events at the Fargo Theatre. It is a welcoming space for people to meet.

The most important aspect to me is that the Fargo Theatre is a great investment for the state. It is a nonprofit that drives the North Dakotan economy. I have had friends fly in to Fargo, attend an event at the Fargo Theatre and then take off from here to see the rest of our beautiful state. They are impressed with the history of the Theatre. Knowing that our legislature is in support of the theatre is inspiring.

Thank you for your support of HB-1438!

Regards,

Danielle L. Erdmann