



A 501 (c) (3) public non-profit organization

January 29, 2025

Support Letter
Re: House Bill 1577

Dear Chairman Porter and Members of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee,

On behalf of the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation (TRMF), I am writing to express our strong support for House Bill 1577, which seeks to establish a wastewater infrastructure grant program in North Dakota. This vital legislation will provide essential resources to support infrastructure projects that are critical to our community's well-being and development.

As a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving the history, culture, and natural beauty of Medora, TRMF plays an integral role in fostering tourism and economic vitality in southwestern North Dakota. Each year, hundreds of thousands of visitors come to experience Medora's attractions, placing significant demands on our local infrastructure, including wastewater systems. Ensuring modern, efficient, and sustainable wastewater management is essential to maintaining the health of our community, the environment, and the quality of life for residents, employees, and visitors alike.

House Bill 1577 presents a unique opportunity for communities like Medora to access the resources needed to address aging wastewater systems and invest in infrastructure capable of supporting future growth. Specifically, the grants proposed in HB 1577 could enable us to collaborate with the City of Medora on essential projects to:

1. **Upgrade Existing Systems:** Modernizing wastewater facilities that serve Medora's residents, businesses, and tourism infrastructure.
2. **Support Housing Development:** Improve sanitary sewer access to facilitate new housing for employees, many of whom work seasonally at TRMF and contribute to the local economy.

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The logo for the town of Medora, featuring the word "Medora" in a large, cursive script. Below it, the tagline "EXPLORE IT. ADORE IT." is written in a smaller, all-caps, sans-serif font.

Medora
EXPLORE IT. ADORE IT.

3. **Protect the Environment:** Safeguard the unique and pristine landscapes surrounding Medora, including Theodore Roosevelt National Park, by preventing wastewater contamination.
4. **Foster Economic Development:** Enable the City of Medora to attract and sustain businesses, enhance tourism, and support the overall growth and prosperity of the community through robust infrastructure investments.

By investing in this critical infrastructure, HB 1577 ensures that communities across North Dakota—including Medora—can continue to thrive. The proposed grant program aligns with TRMF's mission to preserve and enhance the historic town of Medora and will provide lasting benefits for the residents and visitors who cherish this special place.

We sincerely appreciate your commitment to advancing this legislation. TRMF stands ready to collaborate with state and local officials to ensure the success of HB 1577 and the projects it supports. Thank you for your leadership and vision in addressing North Dakota's infrastructure needs.

Sincerely,



Clarence Sitter
Chief Operating Officer
Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation