

1-29-25



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

January 27, 2025

Support Letter  
Re: Senate Bill 2225

Chairman Wanzek and Members of the Government Operations Division of Senate Appropriations,

On behalf of the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation (TRMF) and Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library Foundation (TRPL), we are writing to express our strong support for Senate Bill 2225, which provides funding for the Housing for Opportunity, Mobility, and Empowerment (HOME) program. This legislation is a vital step toward addressing the pressing housing needs in North Dakota, especially in rural communities like Medora, which are essential to the state's economic and cultural identity.

Founded in 1986, TRMF is dedicated to preserving, improving, and sharing the historic town of Medora. TRMF is the steward of numerous attractions, including the Medora Musical, which brings thousands of visitors to our state each year. As one of the top tourist destinations in our state and with anticipated growth over the next few years with the opening of the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library, it presents unique challenges for workforce retention and housing availability in and around our community. The same can be said for TRPL, which plans to hire 40 to 60 employees in the Medora area community in the next 18 months:

One of the most significant challenges TRMF, TRPL and the broader community of Medora faces is securing affordable, accessible housing for seasonal and year-round employees. These individuals are the backbone of Medora's success, supporting not just TRMF and TRPL's operations but also the local economy. TRMF and TRPL are currently studying the housing needs of our community and region with partners and stakeholders in Medora. Preliminary analysis indicates the need for at least 50 housing units to meet the demand within the next two years. Without affordable and reliable housing, many prospective employees are unable to commit to living and working in Medora. Senate Bill 2225 offers a solution to this critical issue by allocating funding to expand affordable housing options in communities like ours.

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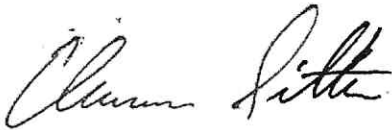


The HOME program will have a transformative impact on our community, region, and state by:

- **Enhancing Workforce Stability:** Providing accessible housing for seasonal and permanent employees will help us attract and retain talented individuals essential to sustaining Medora's economy and that of southwest North Dakota.
- **Encouraging Economic Development:** Investment in rural housing directly supports Medora's businesses and tourism sector, creating long-term benefits for our state, region and community.
- **Strengthening Community Bonds:** Improved housing opportunities create a more resilient and thriving community, benefiting not only TRMF and TRPL employees but also residents of Medora and southwest North Dakota.

We believe that Senate Bill 2225 represents a forward-thinking and pragmatic approach to addressing North Dakota's housing challenges. As organizations committed to fostering Medora's growth, preserving its heritage, and partnering with the state and municipalities in our region, we respectfully urge you to support Senate Bill 2225 and prioritize affordable housing investments in rural communities. Thank you for your leadership and attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,



Clarence Sitter  
Chief Operating Officer  
Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation



Robbie Lauf  
Executive Director  
Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library Foundation

*Medora*<sup>TM</sup>  
EXPLORE IT. ADORE IT.