

Edward F. O'Keefe
Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library Foundation
401 Main Street
Bismarck, North Dakota 58505

February 12, 2025

Dear Senators and Representatives of the North Dakota Legislature,

Our friends and partners at The Medora Grazing Association have asked for our support of Senate Bill No. 2368 to create and enact a new section of Chapter 4. 1-01 of the North Dakota Century Code, and we are heartily glad to provide it.

This bill will permit the North Dakota Agriculture Commissioner to administer a Grasslands Grazing Grant Program that will aid water development infrastructure for the grazing of cattle, wildlife, public use, and aide in firefighting, if needed. Ranchers, as you know well, are conservationists. Like the farmers of our great state, they live and work on the land and depend upon its health for their livelihood and our state's economy. We are proud to stand with The Medora Grazing Association in support of this bill and hope you will too will stand with them.

The pillar principles of the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library are leadership, citizenship, and conservation. The foremost among those three is conservation because Theodore Roosevelt believed that the use and development of our land is this country's greatest asset. Supporting this bill, we believe, continues the great tradition of Theodore Roosevelt's vision of conservation: for and by the people who love and live on the land.

President Roosevelt famously said, "I never would have been president if it had not been for my experiences here in North Dakota." We quote that line often. But far less often do we hear what he said next: "I have lived with the ranchman; I have worked with him; I have worked with the man who works with his hands; I have worked with the man of small means, with the typical American; and I know just how he feels, because I have been in his place and I feel that way myself."

We hope you consider supporting SB 2368 for our ranchers, our fellow citizens, conservation, and for all those who will visit our great state to see the work we do together for and with our land.

With gratitude,



Edward F. O'Keefe
Chief Executive Officer
Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library
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