

March 9, 2021

Sen. Jessica Bell, Chair
Finance and Taxation Committee
North Dakota Senate
Via Electronic Mail

Dear Senator Bell and Members of the Committee:

I'm writing in support of the 2nd Engrossment of HB 1425 because I see it as a potential vehicle to help fund Destination Development in the state. My hope is that Section 4 of this measure would leave room for low interest loans from the Legacy Fund for the construction of new, or the enhancement of existing attractions around the state. When I think of attractions, I think primarily of operations like the zoos in Fargo, Minot, Wahpeton and Bismarck, Scandinavian Heritage Park in Minot, the National Buffalo Museum in Jamestown, the Cowboy Hall of Fame in Medora, the North Dakota Museum of Art in Grand Forks, the Fargo Air Museum, and others. I'm confident that all these organizations have expansion or enhancement plans just waiting to be funded, and a low-interest loan could be the catalyst that would help them move forward.

Just as the new TR Presidential Library will make Medora and Theodore Roosevelt National Park even more attractive to visitors, so too would enhancing the state's other attractions make its communities better places to visit, live, start a business, and raise a family. Please consider this possibility as you ponder HB 1425.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me by phone (701-365-4567 office, 701-371-9911 mobile) or via email, which is charley@fargomoorhead.org.

Sincerely,



Charley Johnson
President & CEO