



03/08/23

To: Senate Appropriations Government Operations Committee

Re: HB 1018 – ND Tourism Division

Dear Senator Wanzek and Committee Members,

My name is Doug Bolken and I am with McKenzie County Tourism in Watford City. I feel that it is crucial for the committee to support the ND Tourism Budget as we are, and have been, far below our neighboring states tourism budgets. Please include:

- \$50 million support for the Destination Development Fund that the Governor recommended.
- \$25 million for marketing for recruiting and marketing campaign for workforce with the Dept. of Commerce.
- \$5 million one-time funding for ND Tourism destination awareness marketing.

The Destination Development Fund would greatly benefit the attraction of workforce to our state and our local community. All marketing of attractions, lodging properties, restaurants and other community amenities paints a welcoming picture of North Dakota.

Please support the Governor's recommendation for ND Tourism HB 1018.

Kind Regards,

Doug Bolken
McKenzie County Tourism