March 09, 2023

To: Senate Appropriations Government Operations Committee

Re: HB 1018 - ND Tourism Division

Dear Senator Wanzek and Committee Members:

I am Phyllis Burckhard, Director of Sales, at the Staybridge Suites in Minot, ND. Our management company, National Hospitality Services, is located in Fargo, ND. We have numerous hotels throughout the state.

I am writing today to express the importance and need for ND Tourism marketing and projects which the Destination Development Fund could be a resource if funded. We are also in need of workforce to help in all areas of the hospitality industry.

Tourism and the number of visitors coming to our state directly affect our hotel, as well as restaurants, local attractions, and retail businesses. Our hotel relies not only on corporate travelers, but also on leisure travelers. We are greatly impacted by the marketing of our state and respectfully request your support.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Þhyllis Burckhard

Minot, ND