



Testimony of Kyle Blanchfield

Owner, Woodland Resort, Devils Lake, ND

**In Support of HB 1018**

March 9, 2023

**Senator Brad Bekkendahl, Chairman and Senate Appropriations Committee Members:**

My name is Kyle Blanchfield, along with my wife Karin, we own Woodland Resort, a lakeside resort on the shores of Devils Lake, ND.

Our family and business support HB 1018 and ask this committee to show your support but fully funding the Destination Development Fund to \$50 Million dollars and to support the targeted workforce program and the one time funding of \$5 Million dollar awareness marketing for State Tourism.

Our family-owned business started in 1988. With the support of our community and the State of ND, we have managed to grow our business from zero to over 5 million dollars in yearly sales attracting visitors from 48 states. We proudly employ over 30 staff and see a bright future in tourism for our community and State.

HB 1018 is the most amazing and ambitious bill regarding the future of tourism for North Dakota that I have witnessed in my 35 years of business. Finally, people are recognizing that tourism is a producer of true economic gains and employment opportunity for North Dakotans. We are turning an exciting corner for the future of tourism in our State.

The future of growth of tourism in North Dakota will be in the exciting new developments of attractions and by growing and expanding existing tourism businesses. The future is bright, but we need the full 50-million-dollar commitment to make true progress. Build it and they will come! Please support this to its full 50 Million dollar investment into our great North Dakota tourism potential.

**Please support HB1018.**

Sincerely,

Kyle Blanchfield

Owner, Woodland Resort

