

# North Dakota

## Travel Alliance Partnership

February 27, 2023

Senator Brad Bekkedahl  
Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman  
ND Senate – ND State Capitol  
600 E. Boulevard Ave.  
Bismarck, ND 58505

Dear Chairman Bekkedahl:

My name is James Pursley and I am the executive director of the North Dakota Travel Alliance Partnership. TAP is a coalition of travel industry stakeholders, including CVBs, state attractions, businesses and other interested stakeholders, in this viable and growing sector of North Dakota's economy.

TAP supported the \$50 million Destination Development Fund and \$25 million workforce talent attraction initiative proposed in executive budget recommendations for the 2023-25 biennium and opposed the large initial cuts by the House Appropriations Education and Environment Division. TAP requested from Sen. Mike Nathe a restoration of the funding and the House subcommittee came back with \$25 million and \$8 million that the House ultimately sent to the Senate for consideration.

TAP asks your committee to consider restoring the funding to the full \$50 million and \$25 million while fully understanding the pressure placed on lawmakers this session. Added partnerships through the Destination Development Fund will help create attractions and activities that motivate out-of-state travel, keep visitors in the state longer and aid in workforce recruitment and retention.

I ask that you reconsider the reductions made to these two vital elements in HB 1018.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Pursley". The signature is written in a cursive style and is set against a light yellow rectangular background.

James Pursley  
ND Travel Alliance Partnership