



SB 2018 Testimony

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Hello, my name is Andrew Beck and I am the Mountain Operations Manager for Huff Hills Ski Area. I am submitting testimony in support of SB 2018, specifically the funding for the Destination Development Grant Program.

Huff Hills is a recipient of the grant, and although our project timeline was delayed due to land ownership issues beyond our control, we are poised to begin our project and will start utilizing the funds.

The Destination Development Grant is critical for many tourism facilities to be able to complete large projects that may not otherwise happen. In our case, we are not able to easily break down the necessary work into phases that would allow us to complete them as capital funds allowed. Instead, the project must be completed as a single project, requiring a larger amount of funds to be utilized at one time. By partnering with the Department of Commerce through the Destination Development Grant program, we are able to complete the project all at the same time. This means our facility will immediately be able to offer increased capacity and additional activities for residents and visitors.

Improving ND's tourism facilities makes our state a more attractive tourism destination and a better place to live and work for new residents, which can positively impact our workforce. Competitive programs like the Destination Development Grant can make the difference between improving our facilities right now or waiting years to see if it's possible, missing opportunities, or losing destinations to travel to. I encourage you to consider maintaining the full funding as requested for Destination Development as an investment in our state's tourism and workforce recruitment efforts.

Thank you.