

A 501 (c) (3) public non-profit organization

January 29, 2025

Support Letter Re: Senate Bill 2368

Chairman Wanzek and Members of the Government Operations Division of Senate Appropriations,

On behalf of the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation (TRMF), I am writing to express our strong support for Senate Bill 2368, which seeks to establish a grasslands grazing grant program in North Dakota. As an organization dedicated to preserving the natural beauty, history, and cultural heritage of Medora and the Badlands, we recognize the immense value this bill holds for the ranching community, conservation efforts, and sustainable land use practices.

Medora and the surrounding grasslands are deeply connected to North Dakota's ranching legacy, dating back to Theodore Roosevelt's time. The grazing grant program proposed in SB 2368 aligns with TRMF's values to foster responsible stewardship of the land while promoting the economic stability of rural communities. By supporting sustainable grazing practices, rangeland restoration, and conservation efforts, this bill will ensure that Medora's iconic landscapes remain productive and vibrant for generations to come.

The bill would provide critical financial assistance to ranchers and land managers, allowing them to enhance water accessibility, improve grazing rotations, and restore native grasslands. These initiatives would not only benefit cattle operations but also contribute to habitat preservation, soil health improvement, and wildfire mitigation—all of which contribute to those the experiences of the individuals that live, work and visit Medora.

Furthermore, Senate Bill 2368 presents an opportunity for collaboration between ranchers, conservation organizations, and educational institutions. TRMF welcomes the chance to work alongside local ranching groups, such as the Medora Grazing Association, to facilitate public education on sustainable land management and to incorporate responsible grazing practices into Western Heritage experiences that attract thousands of visitors annually.

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MEDORA.COM 1-800-MEDORA-1 By passing this bill, the North Dakota Legislature will make a meaningful investment in the future of our state's working lands, local economies, and natural ecosystems. We urge you and your colleagues to support SB 2368 and recognize its role in preserving the legacy of the American West.

Thank you for your leadership and dedication to the prosperity of North Dakota's ranching and conservation communities.

Sincerely,

Clarence Sitter

**Chief Operating Officer** 

Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation

