

TESTIMONY HB 1431, SENATE APPROPRIATIONS

Good afternoon Chairman Holmberg and members of the Senate Appropriations Committee. My name is Kim Konikow, Executive Director of the North Dakota Council on the Arts (NDCA). I am here this afternoon in support of HB 1431 which provides an allocation to NDCA's Cultural Endowment Fund in the amount of \$1 Million dollars.

With the interest earned, approximately \$50,000 per year, eight public installations will have the necessary funds for continued maintenance, as they will all be located in outdoor rural environments. This is often an aspect of creation that is not considered a priority. An example would be one of ND's most well-known public artworks, the Enchanted Highway. Without the proper maintenance, these large-scale sculptures, part of an integral visitor-wide experience, has seen better days. NDCA wants to make sure these new works will be protected for years to come, meeting ongoing infrastructure needs.

Art Across the Prairie – Placemaking in Rural North Dakota:

- *A first-of-its-kind Statewide Program*
- Eight large-scale public art installations will be constructed, based on the cultural heritage and history of each region
- All will be built in rural locales, no placements in city environs

- *This statewide relationship with ND-DOT is a first in the country.* Partnership will contribute to roads, pull-outs, parking, and signage to safely welcome visitors
- Creates economic impact from the relationship with Commerce and related programs in rural areas of ND
- Tourism contributes to plan with marketing for increased visitorship in and out of state; these types of installations are welcomed in the media and by visitors

- Promotes cross-county networking and regional collaboration across State
- Diverse stakeholder groups plan and facilitate the process for their particular region
- Public-Private partnerships established
- Region 1 underway; Region 4 next, then simultaneous process in Regions 2 and 7

Each of these eight ND works will be created based on representations of the cultural heritage of the people who settled and live there now. Regardless of the materials used in construction, the interest on the \$1 Million dollars placed in NDCA's Cultural Endowment Fund will be available to maintain these large-scale installations for years to come, beacons for residents and travelers alike.

I am happy to answer any questions you may have. Thank you for your time and consideration.