



May 19, 2025

The Honorable Michelle Strinden
President of the Senate
North Dakota Senate Chambers
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND

Re: Senate Bill 2018

Dear President Strinden:

Pursuant to Article V, Section 9 of the North Dakota Constitution, I have signed Senate Bill 2018 and filed it with the Secretary of State. I also have vetoed Section 7 of Senate Bill 2018.

Section 7 of Senate Bill 2018 appropriates \$350,000 to the State Fair Association for sanitation restoration projects. While I acknowledge the importance of maintaining and improving facilities at the North Dakota State Fairgrounds, this appropriation was not included in the State Fair Association's primary budget, Senate Bill 2009, where it rightly belonged. Adding the appropriation to Senate Bill 2018, which is a bill unrelated to the State Fair Association, at the end of the legislative session is a clear example of logrolling, which undermines transparency, accountability, and the principle of deliberative budgeting.

The appropriate forum for evaluating the merits and necessity of this funding was during consideration of Senate Bill 2009. That bill was the proper vehicle for determining the State Fair's operating and capital needs in a comprehensive and transparent manner.

Furthermore, if later it is determined the State Fair Association's budget in Senate Bill 2009 is insufficient to address sanitation restoration projects, the Association has several avenues of recourse. These include applying for funding through the Emergency Commission, seeking grants, or requesting a deficiency appropriation during the 2027 legislative session. These existing mechanisms provide a more appropriate and orderly way to address emerging needs without circumventing the standard appropriations process.

For the reasons said above, Section 7 of Senate Bill 2018 is vetoed.

Sincerely,



Kelly Armstrong
Governor