



103 1st Avenue West, Suite 101 • Dickinson, ND 58601

March 30, 2021

Chairman Holmberg and Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee:

As a founding member of our Southwest Career and Technical Education Taskforce, I respectfully submit my support of HB 1431. Our mission is: “to facilitate career readiness in southwestern North Dakota through premier career and technical education in response to the state and regional business, industry and labor needs.”

One of our greatest priorities at Stark Development Corporation has been creating a skilled workforce to meet the demanding needs of the region. Regional industry demands placed on our workforce by our diverse economic drivers have made it essential that we address a ladder approach to educating our youth, young adults and professionals. With vibrant programming and CTE options available locally and in our region, we can directly address these workforce needs.

As a long-standing community member of Dickinson, it pleases me to see the enthusiasm and cooperation of both our local public and private school districts, Dickinson State University, the regional schools, Roughrider Area Career and Technical Center and local municipalities are dedicating to the future of our region.

Our youth have often been cited as one of our greatest exports. Now is the time to do what we can to invest in the future of our state, and specifically southwest North Dakota, by providing the resources to match these young minds with our regional education partners to build the skilled workforce needed to address our growing industries. The Southwest Career and Technical Education Academy will provide the essential path to achieve this goal.

The workforce needs of our region often pose a significant barrier to the growth of our industries and local economy. Supporting our region and our greatest asset, the youth of North Dakota, through the efforts of HB 1431 will give us the edge to meet the needs of our regions’ workforce demands while preparing our youth for success in the high-demand and high-paying careers we are building in North Dakota.

We sincerely thank you and encourage you to offer your support for HB 1431 and the impact it will have on the youth of southwest North Dakota.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Ryan Jilek'.

Ryan Jilek
Executive Vice-President