



Division of World Languages and
Cultural Studies

Dr. Samuel Stinson
Division of World Languages and Cultural Studies
c/o Minot State University
500 University Ave W, Minot, ND 58707

HB2013
Appropriations - Education and Environment Division

March 10, 2023

Chair Nathe and members of the Appropriations Committee, Education and Environment Division,

My name is Samuel Stinson, and I am the director of the Northern Plains Writing Project and an Assistant Professor of English at Minot State University. However, I speak today in my capacity of a concerned citizen with respect to the recent proposed cuts in total funding for the 2023-2025 biennium in HB2013 for both the Northern Plains Writing Project and the Red River Valley Writing Project. The Northern Plains Writing Project has been an active part of the Minot, ND community since 1978. We are thankful and appreciative to the state of North Dakota for providing a budget each biennium for the writing project, and to Minot State University for providing matching funding for the program. I am testifying today in support of HB2013, requesting the reinstatement and recommended increase for the budget of each writing project.

My wife, myself, and our two young boys, moved to Minot in the summer of 2019 so that I could begin teaching English with MSU. One of the things that drew us here was my anticipated role in working in the writing project with K-12 educators across the state of North Dakota working on their M.Ed. degrees. God has blessed us here in having three co-located partners in educational success: a vibrant writing project, an active English department, and a supportive graduate program in Education.

I have had the privilege to conduct summer and advanced institutes with the writing project, for which K-12 educators may elect to receive up to six graduate credit hours each summer toward M.Ed. coursework. In addition, these hours may count toward the required eighteen subject hours in English for those educators teaching dual credit courses. Together with Dr. Daniel Conn in Education, over the past four years, we have designed, constructed, and conducted two new institutes for the writing project, and taught four co-located graduate-level English courses. This 2023 summer, I am planning to conduct these institutes and teach these courses alongside my co-director in the writing project. Dr. Laura Zucca-Scott in Education.

In 2022, the state Education Standards and Practice Board announced a critical shortage for all subject areas in the state. We believe that accomplishing the mission of the writing project is essential to addressing the critical shortage of well-qualified English teachers in North Dakota. The financial support coming from the state has been essential as grant funds for K-12 educators to help defray the tuition cost for those opting to receive graduate credit while taking the writing project institutes. For this reason, restoring and increasing the budgets of both the Northern Plains Writing Project and the Red River Valley Writing Project is vitally



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important and fiscally sound as an investment in both North Dakota educators as well as their students who receive the benefit of these teachers in the classroom.

Thank you again for your consideration. This concludes my testimony with respect to HB2013.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Samuel Stinson".

Samuel Stinson, Ph.D.

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