

HB2013
Appropriations - Education and Environment Division

March 10, 2023

Dear Chair Nathe and Members of the Appropriations Committee, Education and Environment Division:

My name is Laura Zucca-Scott, and I am the recently appointed Co-Director of the Northern Plains Writing Project and an Associate Professor at Minot State University - Teacher Education and Kinesiology Department. I speak today as a concerned citizen regarding the recently 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. I am respectfully testifying today in support of HB2013, requesting the reinstatement and recommended increase for the budget of both projects.

This funding has been essential in our ability to support K-12 educators across the state as they dedicate time and energy during our summer institutes honing their skills and working collaboratively with their colleagues. K-12 educators may elect to receive up to six graduate credit hours each summer toward their M.Ed. coursework. These hours may also count toward the required eighteen subject hours in English for those educators teaching dual credit courses. Given the need for highly qualified teachers in the State of North Dakota, this funding represents an investment in our K-12 educators and our children. In fact, children greatly benefit from the experiences of the adults who work alongside them each day in the classroom.

The Northern Plains Writing Project has played an important role in our communities since 1978. We are very thankful to the state of North Dakota for providing a budget for each biennium in support of the writing project and to Minot State University for providing matching funding for the program. It would be a great loss for our communities if we were unable to fully support our educators at a crucial junction for the future of education in our state.

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

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura Zucca-Scott".

Laura Zucca-Scott, Ph.D.
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