



**Testimony on HB 1019**  
**Presented to the Senate Appropriations Committee**  
**Prepared by Bernie Dardis, West Fargo Commission President**  
**Wednesday, March 15**

1 Chairman Bekkedahl and committee members: I am writing to express my  
2 support for HB 1019 in support of the Career and Technical Education (CTE) funding in  
3 North Dakota. As a native of western North Dakota, business leader and now resident  
4 and Mayor of the City of West Fargo, I can see how CTE funding will benefit residents  
5 across the state. I appreciate your leadership on this to strengthen our state's future.

6 West Fargo is proud to be home to the metro area's district of choice. An  
7 important piece to the success of our district is an emphasis on career readiness.  
8 Students have opportunities through a career academy structure to begin learning skills  
9 in fields from engineering to medicine, business, construction and beyond. This model  
10 allows students to graduate from high school ready to immediately enter the workforce,  
11 or to begin their higher education with a foundation of knowledge that may help them  
12 finish a college degree more efficiently.

13 The work of Cass County Career and Technical Education Center (CCCTEC) is  
14 critical to the success of CTE in West Fargo schools. The passage of HB 1019 is absolutely  
15 necessary to allow CCCTEC to continue preparing students in West Fargo and  
16 throughout the county to excel in their chosen careers and fill in the workforce gaps in  
17 our region.

18 Workforce needs are felt across the state. CTE centers and programs are  
19 valuable tools to filling those needs by training students in careers that are most needed  
20 in North Dakota and connecting them with employers and apprenticeships  
21 immediately after high school graduation. Continued funding of these programs is vital  
22 to the growth of industry and the economic prosperity of our state.

23 I urge you to give HB 1019 a Do Pass to fund Career and Technical Education in  
24 North Dakota, and thank you for making the investment in the future of our students  
25 and our workforce.