



## Letter of Support – S.B. 2003

Monday, March 10, 2025

Chairman Nathe and Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee - Education and Environment Division,

For the record, my name is Cale Dunwoody, and I have the distinct pleasure of serving as the Vice President of Public Policy for the Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce (FMWF Chamber). On behalf of our over 1,700 members, I respectfully offer testimony in support of Senate Bill 2003, specifically regarding North Dakota State University.

At the FMWF Chamber, our mission is to protect and promote business, inspire individuals, cultivate communities, and influence action. We recognize the immense impact higher education has on students and the workforce environment of our state. Institutions of higher education offer students high-quality, rigorous educational opportunities to develop a robust workforce pipeline.

North Dakota State University (NDSU) continues to serve as a crucial state asset, that provides students from across North Dakota, the Midwest, and the nation with essential educational opportunities and experiences in high-demand industry sectors – ultimately fostering a robust pipeline of high-quality workers to fuel our state's economy and tax base. For example, 83% of North Dakota students and 40% of Minnesota students who graduate from NDSU stay in North Dakota to live and work. This data further demonstrates how essential NDSU is in serving as a direct talent pipeline for North Dakota.

Under the leadership of President Cook, and the ongoing support of the North Dakota Legislative Assembly, NDSU has made strategic decisions that uniquely position them to meet future workforce and research needs. To continue this momentum, we encourage this committee to expand investments into NDSU's New Horizon programming. This bold, strategic, and pragmatic approach will further align the institutional goals with current workforce needs. Comprised of 3 main pillars, this programming ensures a successful pathway from student to employee, promoting North Dakota's competitive edge in core industries such as technology, engineering, agriculture, and health care. This critical investment allows NDSU to take meaningful steps to further align with industry partners and further develop a robust pipeline of highly qualified workers.

As the 69th Legislative Assembly considers Senate Bill 2003, we encourage this committee to maintain its longstanding support for higher education institutions, which are essential to fueling the growth and prosperity of North Dakota and addressing our state's workforce challenges.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and your commitment to North Dakota.

Sincerely,

Cale Dunwoody  
Vice President of Public Policy  
Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce