

Dear Representative Nathe,

Chairman, House Appropriations – Education and Environment Division

I am writing to inform you that I support the Department of Commerce Appropriations bill, SB 2018, which funds critical economic development programs in North Dakota. As an owner of Appareo, I directly benefited from the Legacy Investment for Technology (LIFT) Program, which was instrumental in Appareo completing key product development work. In the period following the \$2.5M lift loan we received, we hired 70 people and significantly grew the company. Appareo paid all \$2.5M of the loan back to the state. We also sold the business to AGCO Corporation, bringing a new agricultural equipment manufacturer and Fortune 500 company to North Dakota.

Programs like LIFT help individual businesses and contribute to North Dakota's broader economic development by fostering innovation, job creation, and industry growth.

I would like to ask you to support LIFT in SB 2018 to ensure that businesses like mine continue to have access to the resources necessary for success. Thank you for your time and consideration. If you want to discuss my experience further, please contact me.

Sincerely,

David Batcheller

Former Appareo CEO, AGCO Corporation Site Leader