



Testimony in Support of SB2019
Funding for Work-based Learning Coordinators
North Dakota State Legislature

7/12/2024

Dear Representatives,

On behalf of RDO Equipment Co., I am writing you today in support of SB2019 for the funding for Work-based Coordinators within the state of North Dakota. This investment directly supports the vision and ultimately the requirement for fostering and retaining workforce talent within our state.

RDO Equipment Co. relies on all levels of education to prepare students to be career-ready upon graduation. That said, without Work-based Learning Coordinators acting as our partners we would have significant difficulties in engaging talent in high schools through our early talent programs which provide student the opportunity to experience the career pathways available to them in the agriculture, constructions and machine technology field. The ability for WBL Coordinators to open the door to student and provide us in industry the chance to engage with the future workforce is a win-win and is impacting the success of our business and North Dakota's population today as we at RDO Equipment Co. have had hundreds of Job Shadows, High School Internships and Sponsored students engage with us over the past years thanks directly to the access provided by Work-based Learning Coordinators.

The more students we can get interested and engaged in agriculture, construction and machine technology, the bigger the opportunity RDO Equipment Co. and the state of North Dakota but in order to do this we need to have resources in our schools with flexibility to ensure high-quality, curriculum focused experiences are being offered which exactly what WBL Coordinators provide. I urge you to support SB2019 and the allocation of additional funding for Work-based Learning Coordinators. This funding is essential to build a skilled workforce, retain our young talent, and ensure a prosperous future for North Dakota.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Andy Luikens'.

Andy Luikens
Lead Recruiting Program Manager
RDO Equipment Co.

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