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Testimony in favor of SB2019, North Dakota 69th State Legislature
Funding for Career & Technology Education and Work-Based Learning Coordinators
3/12/25

Dear Chairman Nathe, and members of the House Appropriations Committee,

My name is Tony Doll, I am a Diesel Technician Recruiter for Wallwork Truck Center. Wallwork Truck Centers are the Kenworth Truck dealerships across North Dakota with locations in Fargo, Bismarck, Dickinson, Williston, Minot and Grand Forks. I am writing today in support of SB2019. Forgive me if my verbiage isn't standard as this is the first bill testimony that I have ever offered.

As an employer, we are continuously searching for our future workforce but have had challenges with federal and state labor laws and interpretation of them when offering job opportunities to young people interested in our industry. It is helpful to have a liaison between the schools, the government, and the employer. That essential link comes from funding for Work-Based Learning Coordinators. We currently have 1 student hired in our Fargo shop through a work-based learning program. However, that student worker is from Moorhead. Minnesota has put a large focus on its work-based learning staff and coordinators. It would be great for North Dakota to do the same! We would love to have high school work-based learners in all 6 of our shops across the state!

We believe that some of the best diesel technicians come off the farm and from rural areas of North Dakota. For the industry to continue tapping into this resource, we need to dial in on those students in rural areas and offer opportunities for them to be successful and to stay in North Dakota. I believe that effort comes through funding Career and Technical Education.

I have seen first-hand the impact of increased funding for CTE centers and programs on the students themselves and the future of North Dakota's workforce. Students are excited to be engaging in an industry that they're interested in. Even if they must drive from Beach to Dickinson several times a week, as one student I recently talked to does, just to gain education and training in an industry that he's interested in making a career in.

Please vote in favor of current and future funding for Career and Technology Education in North Dakota, it IS making a difference!

Sincerely,

Tony Doll
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