

Written Testimony in Support of ND SB 2019
Submitted by: Dr. Wayne Heckaman
Title: Director, Bakken Area Skills Center

Date: March 10, 2025

Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my dedicated support for ND SB 2019, which is crucial in sustaining and expanding the impact of CTE programs across North Dakota, particularly in our growing Bakken region in northwest North Dakota. As Director of the Bakken Area Skills Center, I have observed firsthand how the demand for skilled education and workforce development continues to rise alongside our expanding population who desire to stay in the region. Our enrollment numbers and projections, demonstrate the increasing need for funding and resources to meet the demands and needs of our students and support of our workforce in our local communities and industries.

CTE programs are vital in equipping students with firsthand skills that directly translate to workforce readiness, supporting not only individual success but also regional economic growth. The continued investment in CTE ensures that North Dakota remains competitive in attracting and retaining skilled professionals in high-demand industries. The Bakken Area Skills Center is an amazing new center, however, the need for continued and additional resources to keep it operating and functioning to its full potential is critical.

I urge the committee to support SB 2019 and provide continued and additional funding to sustain and grow these essential programs for our center and all centers across this great state. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Dr. Wayne Heckaman
Director, Bakken Area Skills Center
Watford City, ND