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March 3, 2025

The Honorable Mike Nathe, Chairman
North Dakota Legislative Assembly
Appropriations – Education and Environment Division

Letter of Support SB 2019

Dear Chairman Nathe,

On behalf of the North Dakota Trade Office (NDTO), I am writing to express our strong support for the complete restoration of funding for the VR Career Exploration line item in SB 2019. This funding is critical to ensure that the North Dakota Career and Technical Education (NDCTE) program has the necessary resources to create a sustainable and impactful approach to early and diverse career exploration for all North Dakota students.

We are incredibly excited about this opportunity to increase North Dakota students' learning capabilities and the global notoriety that advances in this technology bring. This technology and the knowledge base are another notch in the ND basket of an exportable commodity. Since its inception, the NDTO has fielded numerous calls from worldwide with interest in this technology. In fact, one company from the United Kingdom is in the late stages of relocating their business to ND and is partnering with a local firm.

We respectfully urge you to support the complete restoration of this funding, which will empower NDCTE to continue its mission of providing innovative and effective career exploration programs. Your leadership and commitment to the future of North Dakota's students and workforce are greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Drew Combs", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Drew Combs
Executive Director
North Dakota Trade Office
