



## National Society of Professional Surveyors

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March 20, 2025

To Chairman Nathe and members of the House Appropriations Education & Environment Committee:

My name is Timothy W. Burch, PLS, and I serve as the Executive Director of the National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPS) - a position I am honored to hold after more than 40 years in the surveying profession. Throughout my career, I've worked in the field, managed operations, and advocated at the national level for the future of surveying. I'm writing today to express my strong support for the Virtual Reality Career Exploration initiative funded through SB 2019, and to urge you to restore the \$2 million budget line to ensure this valuable tool will receive the critical support needed to build a sustainable statewide industry-funded model for career exploration.

Surveying is one of the most vital but least understood professions in our nation. From infrastructure and development to environmental stewardship and public safety, land surveyors are at the foundation of nearly every major infrastructure project. And yet, our industry faces a persistent and troubling recruitment challenge. Few students understand what surveyors do, and even fewer can envision themselves in this career. Much of that is due to lack of exposure—we simply haven't had the tools to showcase the work in an engaging, real-world way. Until now.

Late last year, NSPS had an opportunity to develop an immersive virtual field trip showcasing the surveying profession, in partnership with CareerViewXR, Moore Engineering, and the North Dakota State College of Science. Now, for the first time in the history of our organization, we have a tool that authentically brings this work to life for students. It's hands-on. It's engaging. And it's real. When I tried the experience myself, it transported me back to my days in the field—and I knew immediately this was going to do wonders for career awareness in our industry.

We have grown so confident in this tool's impact that NSPS requested CareerViewXR's CEO and Co-Founder, Matthew Chaussee to present his work at our Annual Spring Meeting currently occurring outside Washington, DC. In fact, Mr. Chaussee just concluded his presentation in front of our Workforce Development Committee this afternoon. Our state directors from around the country were in awe, asking how they can implement this technology in their own workforce initiatives. This is just the beginning. NSPS is eager to continue down this path, actively promoting this virtual career experience nationwide across our membership in all 50 states.

Moreover, we are committed to providing ongoing feedback as we work with CareerViewXR to build a national model for immersive industry partnerships. What North Dakota has developed here is more than a program—it's a model with potential to scale nationally.



The opportunity you have at your fingertips is one that will quickly become the envy of other states. I would strongly encourage you to cement your state's position as a leader in career awareness innovation now when you have the chance, by fully funding the \$2 million budget line for Virtual Reality Career Exploration in SB 2019.

Your support will both lift up the surveying profession across your state but will also provide our organization an opportunity to point toward the public-private collaboration happening in North Dakota as an innovative, transformative, and sustainable model to promote early stage career literacy as a proactive workforce development tool. This solution is incredibly important to keep roles that are critical to growing our communities, like Professional Land Surveyor, top of mind for students on their career journey.

Thank you for your time and your commitment to supporting positive workforce outcomes for students. Please don't hesitate to reach out if I can offer any additional insight or support.

Sincerely,

Tim

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Cc: Matthew Chaussee, CareerViewXR