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March 5, 2021

Appropriations Committee – Education and Environment Division  
North Dakota House of Representatives  
State Capitol Building  
600 East Boulevard Avenue  
Bismarck, ND 58505

Chairman Monson and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this written testimony. My name is Kim Schneider and I represent the North Dakota Association of Builders. Our home building industry is proud to support a growing North Dakota and we are fueled by the talents of workers including electricians, plumbers, masons, carpenters, and the many trades that make up the construction industry. Career and technical education is critical not only to our industry, but also provides a career path for our citizens that includes job security and high wages. Despite this, almost every one of our members struggles with attracting and retaining a skilled workforce.

North Dakotans are raised with a strong work ethic and we are grateful for the partnership with the state of North Dakota to provide more opportunities for career and technical education. We strongly believe this partnership not only provides the necessary skills for our workforce, but also a wonderful career opportunity that contributes to the high quality of life in North Dakota. SB 2019 supports our future workforce through the funding of career academy grants. These academies potentially would benefit students located in our local associations of Fargo, Grand Forks, Bismarck-Mandan, Minot, Dickinson, and Williston areas.

On behalf of the North Dakota Association of Builders and our 2,000 members across the state, we urge a Do Pass recommendation on SB 2019.

We appreciate the support and continued partnership,

Kim Schneider  
Chief Executive Officer  
North Dakota Association of Builders