

## **TESTIMONY Neutral SB 2019**

**PRESENTED BY JAMES SCHMIDT**

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NORTH DAKOTA STATE ELECTRICAL BOARD**

Chairman Monson and members of the House Appropriations – Education and Environment Division Committee:

I am providing neutral testimony for Senate Bill 2019. Career and Technical Education (CTE) is a necessary agency to the electrical industry in North Dakota for the programs it provides to high schoolers interested in the construction trade, especially the electrical industry.

I have had the privilege of meeting with Wayde Sick and his staff, several times, on ways the North Dakota State Electrical Board (NDSEB) could participate with CTE to promote the electrical trade to school age students. We haven't come to any definite conclusion yet, but I expect to continue communications with Mr. Sick and his staff on an instructional component for students to take as a possible elective high school class.

It has been noted that the average age of an electrician in North Dakota is nearly 55 years. We need to promote the electrical trade to students so we can replace that workforce. CTE has also assisted our office in ensuring instructors are properly vetted for teaching required continuing education classes for electricians.

I am not sure how Senate Bill 2019 affects CTE, but I want to advocate for keeping CTE funded to maintain CTE's ability to continue creating career opportunities to our school age residents of North Dakota. We therefore take a neutral position on SB 2019 and we thank the Committee for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,  
James Schmidt, Executive Director  
North Dakota State Electrical Board.