



Support HB 1431
House Appropriations Committee
Randall Herman, General Manager, Mid-America Aerotech, LLC
February 1, 2021

Chair Delzer, members of the committee,

For the record my name is Randall Herman and I am the General Manager for Mid-America Aerotech, LLC. Our company is an FAA Repair Station and we primarily provide aviation related component manufacturing, repair and overhaul services. We are also a leading company in the utilization of Cold Spray repair technology serving numerous aviation and non-aviation customers. **I support House bill 1431** which includes key funding for the Cass County Career Workforce Academy, FM Diversion and NDSU Ag Productions Development Center, among many other important things.

As the General Manager of Mid-America Aerotech, LLC, I can tell you first hand that workforce issues are top priority for myself and our industry. We are already in strong competition for workforce and without more of an effort to train our local workforce for positions like those in the manufacturing industry, we will be in a tough position to grow and build upon our success. The Career Workforce Academy is critical to the success of our region. Our community of private businesses and local governments has already dedicated nearly \$21 million funds to building the Academy. I respectfully ask for your support in dedicating the additional \$9 million needed to make this project a reality.

In addition to the Career Workforce Academy, the FM Diversion funding included in this bonding bill is absolutely important for our region and the state as a whole. Through bonding this remaining amount, we will save \$20 million in taxpayer dollars due to eliminating the need to short-term bond.

I currently serve on the NDSU Research Foundation Board of Directors and fully understand the importance of the NDSU Ag Productions Development Center. Internationally-recognized research is happening in a less than adequate space. We need to invest in infrastructure to house this high-quality research. Our state has a strong research reputation to maintain, this facility will ensure we can continue exceptional research through innovation and advanced teaching activities.

For these reasons, **I urge support for HB 1431**. Thank you for your consideration.

Randall Herman, General Manager
Mid-America Aerotech, LLC

Mid-America Aerotech, LLC.
159 8th Ave NW
West Fargo, ND 58078