

February 1, 2021

**Testimony in support of HB 1431**  
Dan Kadrmas, President, TrueNorth Steel

Chair Delzer, members of the House Appropriations Committee,

I am Dan Kadrmas, President of TrueNorth Steel. I am writing to you today in support of House Bill 1431 as it includes critical funding for the Cass County Career Workforce Academy and other important projects.

At TrueNorth Steel, we are proud to provide steel-based solutions for customers' projects in a variety of industries. With more than 75 years of manufacturing, engineering, logistics and construction management experience, we deliver high-quality construction, drainage and storage solutions across the United States. We currently employ 340 employees in North Dakota. Now more than ever, we are in competition for workforce in our industry. It is crucial that we invest in workforce solutions that train our K-14 students, incumbent workforce and new immigrants for successful in demand careers. The Career Academy does just that. The pipeline of workforce that the Academy can provide will allow businesses like ours to further grow and succeed. Without the necessary workforce to do so, that wouldn't be possible.

Our region has done incredible work in the past couple years to raise almost \$21 million to make this Academy a reality. I respectfully ask you to approve the bonding bill with the \$9 million grant for the Cass County Career Workforce Academy, fulfilling the public/private partnership and taking this project to the finish line.

I'm also supportive of the imperative funding for the FM Diversion project as part of the bonding bill. Including this funding in the bonding bill is a great way to save on financing costs due to eliminating short-term borrowing. I again respectfully ask that you approve this appropriation in order to fund this truly shovel ready project.

I am in full support of House Bill 1431 and respectfully ask for your support of it as well.

Thank you,



Dan Kadrmas  
President  
TrueNorth Steel