

January 11, 2023

House Appropriations - Education and Environment Division
State Capitol
600 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505

Subject: Letter in Support of NDSU Engineering Program

Members of the Committee:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Houston Engineering, Inc. (HEI), a Fargo-based multidisciplinary engineering firm, to provide our support of North Dakota State University's efforts to improve and expand upon their Engineering program by constructing a new engineering facility. I am a North Dakota native and graduate of the NDSU Civil Engineering program and currently serve as the President and CEO of HEI. We are a growing company that provides engineering, surveying, environmental, GIS, and planning services throughout the Upper Midwest. We currently employ more than 160 engineers, scientists, technicians, and other support staff in the state of North Dakota. We rely heavily on the NDSU Engineering program as a source for our civil engineering staff. These students in turn become the future generation of HEI employees and leadership, as well as involved members of the communities they serve.

In recent years, it has been increasingly difficult to attract the number of employees commensurate with our project and growth goals in a time when investment in infrastructure is high and recognized as a critical need in our state and our country. We must work twice as hard and cast an even wider net to attract enough employees to keep up with our demand, and we are not alone in our search for talented employees.

Investment in facilities is critical to maintaining a high quality and competitive Engineering program at NDSU and helping it attract the highest quality students. In turn, this helps HEI meet our hiring needs and allows us to continue our work on critical infrastructure projects throughout our State and Region. As such, I ask that you support funding for this critical facility at NDSU. Thank you for the opportunity to express my views in support of this project.

Sincerely,

HOUSTON ENGINEERING, INC.

Gregg Thielman
President | CEO
Direct: 701.499.2080
cgthielman@houstoneng.com