

Testimony of Dana Hager
Economic Development Association of North Dakota
In Support of HB 1016
January 6, 2023

Chair Nathe and members of the House Appropriations Committee - Education and Environment Division:

EDND represents more than 80 state economic development organizations on the front line of economic development efforts throughout North Dakota. The primary purpose of the organization is to promote the creation of new wealth throughout North Dakota to develop more vibrant communities and improve quality of life. It is for these reasons our organization and its members want to express support for HB 1016, the Job Service North Dakota appropriation bill.

EDND recognizes the importance of connecting businesses and education through expanded career counseling, career and technical education, and post-secondary education and training programs that support the state's most critical occupational needs. Job Service North Dakota serves as the conduit between job seekers and employers, and EDND urges the funding for continuation of its programming.

Job Service provides many essential services for economic developers, including regional and company-specific job fairs, and is also a great resource for wage-related information for economic developers and businesses. We see the agency as the state's premier job source organization. Programs such as New Jobs Training provide worker education and training specifically required for jobs in new and expanding primary sector businesses and encourages employers to create new high-wage jobs in our state.

North Dakota's economy is changing, and, now more than ever, a strong workforce is vital to the success of our state's communities. Connecting job seekers with resources and education in order to be placed in a high-demand career path is key to workforce attraction and sustainability. EDND supports the investments included in this bill to help North Dakota continue to grow and diversify our state's economy.

Thank you for this opportunity to address your committee and express our support for HB 1016.