

House Appropriations Committee - Education & Environment Division
HB 1033 – Challenge Grant Funding - ND University System

January 16, 2023

Chairman Nathe and Committee Members

My name is Jeffry Volk. I am a retired President and CEO of Moore Engineering, Inc., a Civil Engineering and Land Surveying firm with multiple offices in North Dakota and Minnesota. I am a proud graduate from ND State University with a BS in Civil Engineering. I have spent my entire professional career as an engineering consultant in North Dakota. My testimony today is on behalf of my family.

We strongly support continued funding for the Challenge Grant. This funding model, with a two parts private to one part state money, is an excellent way to align the public and private interests to support post-secondary students and institutions in the ND University System. Our family utilized the Challenge Grant program to match our dollars to endow a Civil Engineering student scholarship at NDSU several years ago. We consider this decision and the Challenge Grant program a huge success.

Specifically to HB 1033, we would ask the legislature strongly consider funding the program at the \$50 million level as proposed in Governor Burgum's budget. We would also suggest funding for the program be distributed to the institutions with an eye towards enrollment numbers at the institutions. When institution enrollment is considered over the past several biennium's allocations, there is a significant variation between the institutions.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Jeffry J Volk, PE
1843 7th St E
West Fargo, ND