



House Appropriations Committee – HB 1199

Representative Don Vigesaa, Chair

January 18, 2023

Chairman Vigesaa, Members of the Committee:

My name is Brian Ritter and I'm the President & CEO of the Bismarck Mandan Chamber EDC. Please accept the following testimony on behalf of our organization's more than 1,200 members in support of HB 1199.

The single greatest challenge facing our members and our economy right now is undoubtedly, workforce. According to the latest statistics from Job Service North Dakota, there are nearly 3,000 total open jobs in the Bismarck-Mandan metropolitan area alone. What's more is that those open jobs are in various occupation groups such as healthcare practitioners & technical occupations, transportation & material moving occupations and more that can be addressed by career and technical education (CTE).

School districts across North Dakota have sought to address that challenge by investing federal dollars in the construction of new and expanded CTE centers. However, delays at the United States Department of the Treasury have held up the progress of some of those projects. HB 1199 would simply authorize the Bank of North Dakota to establish a line of credit to so that those projects can proceed until the funds are finally released by the Department of the Treasury.

As such, I would respectfully ask that the Committee give a DO PASS recommendation to HB 1199.