

1 HB1199 – NDCTE Grant Program and authorize a BND line of  
2 credit.

3 Mandan Public Schools – Dr. Jeff Fastnacht, Asst. Superintendent  
4 Good morning, Chairman Vigesaa and members of the House  
5 Appropriations Committee.

6 As the past president of the North Dakota Department of Career  
7 and Technical Education Board, during the time of the  
8 distribution of the Federal Coronavirus Capital Projects Funds I  
9 wish to extend my support for HB 1199.

10 During the difficult task of administering these grant funds it  
11 became readily apparent that the need for robust CTE career  
12 academies was outpacing the funds available. The competition for  
13 these grant funds was fierce and many communities and regions  
14 stepped in with both feet ready to address our state’s workforce  
15 challenges. The awarding of these funds, by the Board, in March  
16 of 2022 was seen as the springboard for the applicants to begin  
17 construction of these worthy centers. Only to have delays from  
18 the United States Treasury, which hold the funds, to release any

1 of the 68 million. This has caused each of the applicants to either  
2 put a hold on these worthwhile projects or take the risk of  
3 completing the projects with uncertainty of funding.

4 The Heart River CTE Center project, which I have the privilege  
5 of leading in Mandan, was funded for 10 million dollars has four  
6 projects. Three projects in our plan are advancing despite the  
7 uncertainty of these funds while one part of the project, in Hebron,  
8 is completely on hold. Your support for HB1199, with an  
9 emergency clause, would help all the applicants, including Heart  
10 River, to move forward on these valuable workforce development  
11 centers with a sense of financial security.