

Testimony in support of House Bill 1199  
House Appropriations Committee | January 18 | 9:15am

Chairman Vigesaa and members of the House Appropriations Committee,

I am writing in support of HB 1199, the bill to provide an appropriation to the department of career and technical education for the statewide area and career center initiative grant program. The bill would authorize a Bank of North Dakota line of credit for the construction of the new and expanded career and technical education centers. The largest school district in Williams County, Williston Basin School District #7 (WBSD7), is one of the grant recipients. Williams County is a matching entity, having granted \$5 million for the construction of the Williston Basin Career and Technical Education Center.

WBSD7 hopes to have the new Center open by August 2024. They are currently working with architects and a construction manager at risk to make their ambitious timeline come to fruition. With each month that this construction project is delayed, costs will continue to increase; one more reason to prioritize releasing funds and expedite project completion.

The workforce challenges that our area is currently facing span many industries, including energy, health sciences, and childcare. The Williston Basin CTE Center will provide exposure to careers in the areas of health sciences, automotive and diesel technology, aviation and drone technology, family and consumer sciences, agriculture, and information technology. This center cannot be constructed soon enough!

Again, we are seeking your support for HB199 to enable the release of funds to grant recipients through a Bank of North Dakota line of credit.

Thank you for your time and consideration,



Helen Askim  
Williams County Administrator