



## NORTH DAKOTA STATE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL

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To the Honorable Don Vigesaa and Member Representatives of the Appropriations Committee

RE: House Bill 1232; Appropriation to the Department of Career and Technical Education for career exploration software

Representing workers in the commercial, industrial, and residential construction industries, foundation to finish, we are committed to promoting, recruiting, and developing careers in the skilled trades. Construction is a rewarding career, and we are fully committed to passing this industry along to younger generations.

The challenges of bringing students to construction sites, even if one is accessible, are always a challenge because of hazards in the industry. Yet, displaying images or videos of members in action simply does not show the depth and complexity of the infrastructure that we build every day. For these reasons we were searching for a way to bring the jobsite to the student to see the full range of careers available.

Using virtual reality has enabled us to work towards this goal across the state in a safe, controlled manner while drawing interest in the Building Trades Unions. It has been amazing to see students interact with this technology as we take them from trade to trade, site to site, generating a greater understanding of construction.

However, our system is currently limited to who we can present to when invited to schools, so we have only used this technology on a very limited scope. We feel appropriating funds into RUPReady will address this limitation for careers that are challenged the way the construction industry is. Therefore, we are in support of HB 1232 and recommend its passage.

With Kindest Regards, I am

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