



BISMARCK MANDAN
CHAMBER | EDC

House Finance & Taxation Committee – HB 1168

Representative Craig Headland, Chair

January 9, 2023

Chairman Headland, Members of the Committee:

My name is Brian Ritter and I'm President 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 1168.

The single most important issue facing our members, and our economy right now, is workforce. According to the latest statistics from Job Service North Dakota (JSND), Burleigh County has a 1.6% unemployment rate and 2,650 open jobs. Using that same report, Morton County has a 2.1% unemployment rate and 320 open jobs. That's nearly 3,000 total open jobs in the Bismarck-Mandan metropolitan area, alone.

Given those numbers, it's no wonder that our employers are looking for every possible way to address that shortage of labor. One of those means is purchasing new equipment that allow fewer employees to do as much work as they were before, when they had more help, or even more. The proposed tax credit would incentivize our State's manufactures to purchase such equipment thus allowing them to retain workers and increase productivity, right here in North Dakota.

As such, I would respectfully ask that the Committee give a DO PASS recommendation to HB 1168.