

1 HB1186 – Administration of CDE and CTE Appropriations

2 Mandan Public Schools – Dr. Jeff Fastnacht, Asst. Superintendent

3 Good afternoon, Chairman Dever and members of the Senate
4 Appropriations Human Resources Division.

5 Senator Dever is a pleasure to see you again today. Committee
6 members I had the opportunity over the cross-over break to
7 speak with Senator Dever and several Bismarck and Mandan
8 legislators at an event at BSC. During that meeting several local
9 political and business leaders brought up the continued concerns
10 with workforce in our region and the state. As part of that
11 discussion the efforts to expand workforce development at BSC
12 and in our public schools was also discussed. This discussion is
13 what is bringing me here today.

14 There are two parts to HB 1019 that I would like to focus your
15 attention on today, and ask for your support. The first, is funding
16 for new and expanding programs within the NDCTE budget. As
17 Director Sick has mentioned the request from his office for new
18 and expanding is \$20 million. I believe at the present time it is

1 funded at \$8 million. In speaking with Director Sick, he tells me
2 that \$8M should fund all the new and expanding. I emphasize
3 should. Chairman Dever and committee the small schools that
4 make up the new Heart River CTE Center (Mandan, Beulah,
5 New Salem, Glen Ullin, Hebron, Center-Stanton, Flasher, Solen,
6 and Selfridge) are nervous to begin hiring a director, a career
7 counselor, or adding courses without firmer assurance that state
8 funding will follow. A funding of \$10M would provide the
9 needed assurance that our programs, and all new programs, will
10 be funded allowing them to begin to address the workforce gaps
11 in our state.

12 Secondly, I would ask this committee to support the full
13 construction of the new CTE center that were part of the Federal
14 Coronavirus Capital Projects Grant. As you know the base
15 funding of \$88 million has already been approved by both
16 chambers and signed by the Governor. I am asking for
17 additional financial assistance in the form of \$40 million in
18 inflationary impact funds for these valuable 13 projects in our
19 state. As Director Sick has already mentioned these projects are
20 projected to see increased construction costs near 40% over

1 estimates. Without additional funding, projects will need to be
2 cut or alternative funds obtained, which could include local
3 taxation. Within the Heart River CTE unit, Beulah is completed
4 with only minor overages as they were substantially completed
5 before the increase in inflation. New Salem is progressing with
6 their project seeing an increase of 47.7% over projections. New
7 Salem School is covering the nearly \$700,000 in additional
8 costs. Mandan's CTE center is part of the new Mandan High
9 School. Our initial center was expected to cost \$8.2 million.
10 Actual costs now are \$10.5 million or an increase of 29.6%. We
11 have been addressing this gap with special requests for funding
12 of our business partners. We also believe we will be accessing
13 more within our building fund. The only project not started is in
14 Hebron. Their project was estimated to cost \$1 million and is
15 now being rebid as it is coming in at \$1.5 million. Any support
16 you can give these valuable workforce development centers
17 would be appreciated.

18 Thank you for your time this afternoon and I would stand for
19 any questions you may have.