

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 Bekkedahl and members of the Senate
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.