



North Valley
Career and Technology Center

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Testimony of Michael Hanson, Director

North Valley Career & Technology Center
Senate Appropriations Committee
January 30, 2023

Chairman Bekkedahl and Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of HB1199. My name is Mike Hanson, Director of North Valley Career & Technology Center. We serve our member school districts of Drayton, Grafton, Midway, Minto, Park River, and Valley-Edinburg.

North Valley was awarded funding through the CTE Capital Projects Grant. This would add new pathways to our Grafton and Minto locations, as well as adding a satellite site to add CTE programs in Cavalier, which could serve the districts of Cavalier, North Border, and Langdon. Unfortunately, these federal funds have not been released, thus delaying projects and program delivery to these districts. Delays are now contributing to increased project expenses due to material costs, labor increases, and growing inflation. Another issue with the delay is that districts are utilizing ESSR Funds as a match, and those funds have a deadline in which they need to be expended by.

Over the past several years, North Valley has been working with over 140 industry and agency partners, such as the American Crystal, Northeast Manufacturing Group, and the Red River Regional Council, to stay relevant on what programs we offer. These conversations lead us to the decision to add pathways like Automated Manufacturing, Precision Ag, Food Processing, Health Science, IT, Robotics, and more. The Capital Project funds would allow us to implement these programs, which are all high demand areas in our region and state.

We ask for your support now in the 2023 - 68th Legislative Assembly to approve HB1199 to avoid further delays and expenses for these already approved projects. Investing in Career & Technology Centers is not only a vision for learners, but a legacy for North Dakota education and workforce development.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael S. Hanson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael S. Hanson
Director, North Valley Career & Technology Center