



Senate Finance & Taxation Committee – HB 1168

Senator Jordan Kannianen, Chair

March 7, 2023

Chairman Kannianen, Members of the Committee:

My name is Brian Ritter and I am the President & CEO of the Bismarck Mandan Chamber EDC. Please accept the following testimony on behalf of our organization's more than 1,230 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 2.1% unemployment rate and 2,375 open jobs. Using that same report, Morton County has a 2.8% unemployment rate and 388 open jobs. That's nearly 2,800 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 manufacturers to purchase such equipment thus allowing them to retain works 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.