

March 8, 2023

To Chair Wobbema and Members of the Senate Workforce Development Committee:

I am writing in support of **HB 1232**. I currently work for Harvestone Low Carbon Partners, formerly known as Midwest AgEnergy Group. Our company owns and operate Blue Flint & Dakota Spirit, which employees 80+ people in rural North Dakota. A large majority of our positions are in the career and technical fields, employing people that have certificates and degrees in engineering, instrumentation, process operations and control or mechanical maintenance, just to name a few.

We have long been a supporter of career and technical education. We have engaged youth by providing onsite tours, education, and college sponsorships for local students. We recently participated in creating virtual learning videos in partnership with Matt Chaussee and his Be More Colorful team. Given employers have significant workloads with limited time, along school's limited calendar availability, it is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to engage in physical presentations whether at our facility or at the schools.

I support bringing learning to the students in a manner that works for all parties. That is exactly what **HB 1232** does. It creates a platform for business and education to merge, while utilizing technology that can reach a whole host of students. It also gives students an opportunity to see insight into career paths that are uncommon or unknown. The ND Workforce Development Council has data supporting the high retention rate of HS students and ND residents if we can keep them in the state. What better way to showcase career paths in ND and assist with retention of our upcoming workforce, than by adding this powerful new tool to the RU Ready platform that is already in the hands of every student. This is money well spent!

Thank you for your attention on this matter and again, for your support of HB 1232.

Sincerely,



Cindy Griffin  
VP, Human Resources & Corporate Services

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