



March 7, 2025

Chair, House Education and Environment Division
600 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505

Re: Support for Train ND

Dear Chairman,

Steffes is a lean-operating original equipment manufacturer headquartered in Dickinson, North Dakota, with additional manufacturing facilities in Grand Forks, North Dakota, Shelby, North Carolina, and customer support facilities in Midland, Texas; Casper, Wyoming; and Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. We specialize in steel fabrication and electrical services for a variety of diverse industries, including oil and gas, contract manufacturing and electric thermal storage. We employ over 400 people in the state of North Dakota.

TrainND provides organizational and employee training which would not otherwise occur and allows businesses to develop internal talent and organizational capabilities for hard to find & critical skills. They provide training solutions geared towards the organization's needs while bringing customized training to local communities.

The funding training that we have received from TrainND has been an important aspect in growing our business in Dickinson and Grand Forks as we meet the demands of changes in the manufacturing environment.

As the needs of manufacturing change in the upcoming years with turnover in the workforce and technology changes, funding and training support for technical and organizational training are critical to developing and retaining talent necessary to grow businesses in North Dakota. We support the proposal to expand TrainND to regional offices within the state to provide further training opportunities.

We urge this committee to continue funding and support the expansion of TrainND as presented in NDCTE budget across North Dakota.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kristal K. Fields'.

Kristal K. Fields
Learning and Development Manager
Member of the TrainND Southwest Advisory Board