



THE CHAMBER
FARGO MOORHEAD WEST FARGO

Letter of Support – SB 2003 – Challenge Grant

Tuesday, January 21st, 2025

Chairman Sorvaag and Members of the Senate Appropriations - Education and Environment Division,

For the record, my name is Cale Dunwoody, and I have the distinct pleasure of serving as the Vice President of Public Policy for the Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce (FMWF Chamber). On behalf of our over 1,700 members, I respectfully offer testimony in support of Senate Bill 2003 and urge the inclusion of Governor Armstrong's recommendation of \$50 million for the state's Challenge Grant program.

At the FMWF Chamber, our mission is to protect and promote business, inspire individuals, cultivate communities, and influence action. Access to a skilled and educated workforce is a critical concern for businesses across North Dakota. To effectively compete on a global scale for talent, our state and private industries must strategically invest in innovative solutions to address this workforce crisis.

We commend the North Dakota Legislature for its steadfast commitment to the Challenge Grant program. Since its inception in 2013, this groundbreaking initiative has amplified donors' gifts allowing millions in scholarships for students, enhancing the workforce of North Dakota. With the program's 2-to-1 matching investment from individual and corporate benefactors, institutions can continue to enhance their ability to recruit and retain students, cultivating a robust pipeline of qualified professionals essential for our state's economic growth.

As the 69th Legislative Assembly considers Senate Bill 2003, we encourage this committee to maintain its longstanding support for the Challenge Grant program. Higher Education is essential to the growth and prosperity of North Dakota and addressing our state's workforce challenges.

Thank you for your ongoing support and your commitment to North Dakota.

Sincerely,

Cale Dunwoody
Vice President of Public Policy
Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce