



NORTH DAKOTA STATE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL

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January 9, 2025

To the Honorable Brad Bekkedahl and Member Senators of the Appropriations Committee

RE: Senate Bill 2019; Supportive testimony for the appropriation to defraying the expenses of the department of career and technical education

Representing workers in the commercial, industrial, and residential construction industries, foundation to finish, we are committed to promoting, recruiting, and developing careers in the skilled trades. Construction is a rewarding career, and we are fully committed to passing this industry along to younger generations. These goals are shared with the department of Career and Technical Education, and we support this appropriation.

Furthermore, laid out in this budget, there are funds specified that will assist endeavors to establish pre-apprenticeship programs. Pre-apprenticeship programs seek to educate high school students in courses aligned with registered apprenticeship programs. These programs align with the concept of a dual-credit course arrangement between a high school and higher education institution. The student receives credit for their high school diploma while also receiving credit in their apprenticeship. Like dual credit courses, a student could be completing a four-year apprenticeship program much sooner, getting them into the workforce on a faster timeframe. This budget can advance younger workers' careers with accredited education and skill attainment for the construction industry.

Therefore, the State Building and Construction Trades Council are in support of SB 2019 and recommend a Do Pass recommendation from the Senate Appropriations Committee.

With Kindest Regards, I am

Jason Ehlert
North Dakota State Building and Construction Trades Council
President
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