



Testimony of Laura Lacher  
Economic Development Association of North Dakota  
In Support of SB 2019  
January 13, 2025

Chair Sorvaag and members of the Senate Appropriations Committee – Education and Environment Division:

The Economic Development Association of North Dakota (EDND) represents more than 80 state economic development organizations on the front line of economic development efforts throughout North Dakota. The primary purpose of the organization is to promote the creation of new wealth throughout North Dakota to develop more vibrant communities and improve quality of life.

Workforce availability is the most significant challenge facing North Dakota businesses, limiting the growth potential of the state's economy. EDND supports the development of workforce attraction, development, and retention strategies that address the needs of the state's businesses and industries.

Workforce development is integral in creating a diversified economy, better employees, and competitive companies, and we encourage the committee to keep funding for these programs at the current level. The training programs provided by CTE are tailored to the needs of businesses and provide tools for more efficient and productive employees.

As economic developers and communities continue to seek diversification of our state's economy, the need to train current and future employees will grow. The availability of a high-quality competitive workforce will remain a significant challenge facing North Dakota businesses, which will in turn impact the potential of the state's economy.

EDND supports the investments included in this bill and the development of workforce training strategies that address the diversification and growth of businesses and employees.

Thank you for this opportunity to address your committee and express our support of SB 2019.