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"Professionals building our community through promotion of home ownership, education and legislation since 1958"

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March 4, 2021

Appropriations Committee
North Dakota House of Representatives
State Capitol Building
600 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505

Chairman Delzer and Members of the Committee,

The Home Builders Association of Bismarck-Mandan represents approximately 65 builders and 235 other related businesses throughout Burleigh and Cass County. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter urging you to catalyze economic development and financial stability by supporting Senate Bill 2019 and the funding it proposes for career and technical education.

The North Dakota workforce currently lacks the skills and knowledge required to build, update, and maintain homes. As a result, construction costs and purchase prices are pushed to levels that exclude potential homebuyers from the market and communities lose economic activity and revenue potential. The current shortage has brought that cycle to a standstill in North Dakota.

These economic losses will continue until we, as a state, acknowledge the fact that a 4-year degree and labor alone do not build homes, whereas Senate Bill 2019 supports the academies that cultivate skills, education and housing diversity that the North Dakota ecosystem desperately needs.

Rather than considering this testimony a plea, please accept it as an invitation for you to join us as economic investors in the state you represent. The private sector and other government entities are already collaborating to broaden the career and technical education resources.

Senate Bill 2019 is the state's opportunity and we urge you to support it.

Dawn Watson

Dawn Watson

Chief Executive Officer
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