



Home Builders Association of Fargo-Moorhead

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November 8, 2021

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

Dear Chairman Delzer and Members of the Committee,

The Home Builders Association of Fargo-Moorhead represents approximately 750 builders and related businesses throughout Cass County. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter urging you to catalyze economic development and financial stability by supporting the funding House Bill 1505 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 cities lose the economic activity and revenue potential. This labor crisis has brought the growth cycle to a standstill in North Dakota.

The crisis will continue until we, as a state, acknowledge the fact that 4-year degrees and labor alone do not build homes or represent success. However, approving workforce development legislation, like House Bill 1505, will cultivate the functional skills and knowledge required to successfully build and diversify the housing inventory that North Dakota so desperately needs.

We thank the 2021 Legislative Assembly for supporting workforce development during its regular session but ask that the Assembly not forget that the crisis will perpetuate absent continued state commitment and financial support. Rather than considering this letter a plea for funding, please accept it as testimony to fact that the State will receive immeasurable positive returns on every penny invested in workforce development.

Private and public partnerships have been committed and working to correct the labor crisis before the American Rescue Plan Act funds were available, but today these partners must ask, "Will the largest beneficiary of our efforts, the State of North Dakota, continuing doing its own part to correct the labor crisis?" Approving funding for workforce development is the state's opportunity and we urge you to support it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,


Bryce Johnson
Chief Executive Officer


Kim Hochhalter
President

Affiliated With



HBA of F-M's vision is to nurture a thriving, innovative and diverse housing industry in our community.