

January 10, 2023

Re: HB 1023

Honorable members of the House Appropriations Education and Environment Division Subcommittee:

Barr Engineering is pleased to provide this letter of support for the North Dakota State University funding request contained in House Bill 1023, which includes resources for an engineering facility. We proudly employ NDSU Alumni.

Demand for engineers in our state is high and NDSU has a vital role in meeting the needs of our industry. The University has a solid reputation of producing leaders in their fields. It is important that continued investments be made to allow NDSU to remain a leader in the education of the future leaders of the engineering profession.

Barr Engineering has offices across the U.S. and Canada. The Bismarck office was opened in 2008 and employs over 30 people. We are honored to serve North Dakotans whether their needs are in the field of water resources, agriculture or the energy industry. Barr Engineering currently has 148 STEM-related openings, with over 120 of them in North Dakota and Minnesota.

NDSU's ability to attract and educate students in the dynamic fields of engineering, with constantly changing technologies, is dependent on continued investments in infrastructure. Barr Engineering encourages this legislature to make a sound investment in the continued advancement of our State by supporting NDSU's request and funding an engineering facility for its campus.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Westbrook".

Jason Westbrook, PE
Vice President