



**HB 1032**  
**House Education Committee**  
**Chairman Pat Heinert**  
**January 11, 2023**

Chairman Heinert and members of the Committee, my name is Andrea Pfennig, and I'm here today on behalf of the the North Dakota Motor Carriers Association (NDMCA), **in support** of HB 1032.

According to the NDSU Challey Institute for Global Innovation and Growth, Transportation and Warehousing accounts for 4.7% of the state's GDP. Reliable transportation networks expand markets by allowing North Dakota businesses to sell products across the state, to other states, and internationally. North Dakota has the nation's most freight-dependent economy.

Like other industries in the state, workforce is poses a significant challenge. Our members support the creation and expansion of programs that recognize truck drivers and diesel mechanics as high demand occupations and offer financial assistance, such as scholarships and low interest loans, towards the pursuit of education in these fields. It important to note that CDL training does not qualify for traditional financial aid, so solidifying other options are important to assist in meeting this skilled workforce need.

NDMCA thanks the Committee for your consideration and urges a **do pass** recommendation.