



GREATER NORTH DAKOTA CHAMBER
HB 1018
Senate Appropriations Committee
Chairman Brad Bekkedahl
February 28, 2023

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, my name is Andrea Pfennig with the Greater North Dakota Chamber. GNDC is North Dakota's largest statewide business advocacy organization, with membership represented by small and large businesses, local chambers, and trade and industry associations across the state. We stand in **support** of House Bill 1018.

Workforce is a critical challenge facing businesses in North Dakota. Our members support comprehensive efforts led by the State to attract workforce. We also feel it is important to augment strategic resources for automation, recognizing it is an important tool to address workforce challenges.

From a business climate perspective, our members feel it is important to advance automation, innovation, and entrepreneurship through targeted incentives and economic development policies that position North Dakota to be globally competitive. This is important to all industries, including burgeoning industries such as UAS.

Specifically, we feel that the following components of HB 1018 are crucial to meet workforce needs:

- Technical Skills Training Grants
- Workforce Talent Attraction Initiative
- Workforce Investment Grant Program
- Automation Workforce Training
- Automation Workforce Equipment Grants
- New Americans Workforce Training Grants
- Operation Intern

We'd also like to express support for the economic development projects included in HB 1018, such as Development Fund, Legacy Investment Technology Loans, and Beyond Vision Line of Sight.

We hope that you will fund these components of the bill that will improve the business climate in North Dakota. Thank you for your consideration.