

H. A.
Thompson
& SONS

Since 1908

Mechanical Contractors

CORPORATE OFFICE:

911 SOUTH 9TH STREET
P.O. BOX 1195
BISMARCK, ND 58502-1195
PHONE: (701) 223-3393
FAX: (701) 223-1517

February 16, 2023

Page 1 of 2

Chairman Wobbema

Members of Senate Workforce Development Committee

My name is Travis Greff. I am the Commercial Estimator for HA Thompson and Sons a plumbing and heating company located here in Bismarck. I serve on the board for Associated Builders and Contractors MN/ND Chapter. I am also the President of the North Dakota Association of Plumbing, Heating and Mechanical Contractors. I am here today to voice support to Senate Bill 2170 as an employer of workers in the construction industry as well as an advocate for workforce development in the plumbing and HVAC trades.

As with all businesses within the state of North Dakota, we are looking for good, hard-working employees to train and bring into our industry. In our state, most of the work occurs on construction projects in the summer months when weather is ideal for doing the work. This means that all the trades in construction are trying to get the manpower to perform as much work as possible during these months. Hiring 16 and 17-year-old students who are looking for summer employment is great resource for companies that need to fill this demand. Due to the current restrictions on this age group, most of the time it is not worth bringing them on to work.



CORPORATE OFFICE:

911 SOUTH 9TH STREET
P.O. BOX 1195
BISMARCK, ND 58502-1195
PHONE: (701) 223-3393
FAX: (701) 223-1517

Page 2 of 2

Allowing this group of workers to be able to do more of the tasks needed on a project site will allow employers to fill the many smaller tasks that are required on a construction build while exposing our younger generation to different employment opportunities and making them more resourceful in the process. Our company requires all new employees to go through an OSHA 10 safety course through North Dakota Workforce Safety to make certain everyone on the project site is working in a safe manner.

The plumbing and heating industry has been talking non-stop for 20 years on how to get younger people more interested in the trades. It has been great to see the additional funding from our State Legislature to help improve vocational education at the high school level to help with the current shortage in construction workforce. This bill will allow the students involved in those programs to safely apply the knowledge in real world applications while helping fill a need within all the construction trades. Other states throughout the region have implemented similar legislation resulting in 16- and 17-year-olds gaining skills and knowledge that will stay with them for a lifetime.

Once again on behalf of Associated Builders and Contractors, the North Dakota Association of Plumbing, Heating and Mechanical Contractors and HA Thompson and Sons, I ask you to vote yes on SB 2170.

Thank you and at this time I would be happy to answer any questions you may have for me.

Plumbing • Heating • Air Conditioning • Temperature Control • Contract Maintenance • Fire Protection

H. A.

**Thompson
& SONS**

Since 1908

Mechanical Contractors

CORPORATE OFFICE:

911 SOUTH 9TH STREET
P.O. BOX 1195
BISMARCK, ND 58502-1195
PHONE: (701) 223-3393
FAX: (701) 223-1517

A LINC® Service Contractor