

TO: House Appropriations – Education and Environment Division
 FROM: Community Development Department - City of Watford City
 DATE: March 17, 2025
 RE: SUPPORT of SB 2018

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the North Dakota Department of Commerce

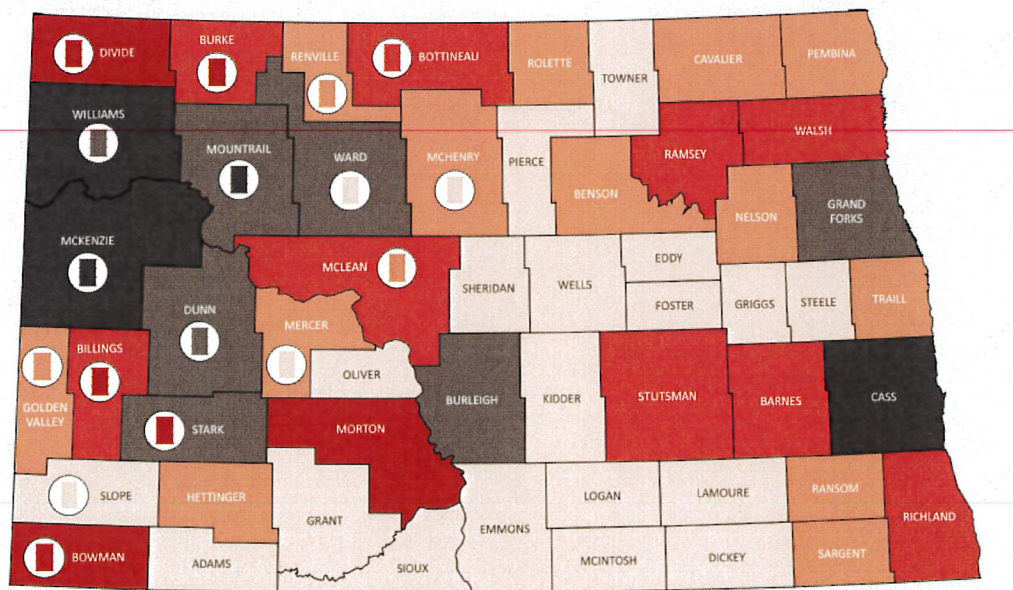
Chairman Nathe and members of House Appropriations – Education and Environment Division:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written support for SB 2018 today. My name is Vawnita Best, Community & Business Development Director for the City of Watford City. The City of Watford City, Community Development Department's mission is to support the development of community initiatives that support the needs of a robust and relevant 21st century workforce. We conduct our work jointly with McKenzie County Economic Development. We do this work and focus on the needs of the employers to ensure they have the workforce they need to continue the mining of energy and deposits of oil and gas tax revenue that supports over 50% of North Dakota's:

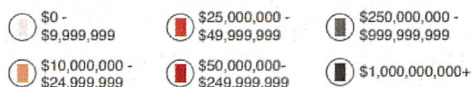
WDEA & NDPF Oil and Gas Tax Revenues – 2024 Update:

<https://wdeawebsite.blob.core.windows.net/usrfiles/documents/wdea%2012%20paper%20-%202001-27-25.pdf>

Where Does State Oil Tax Come from and Where Does It Go?



PRODUCTION



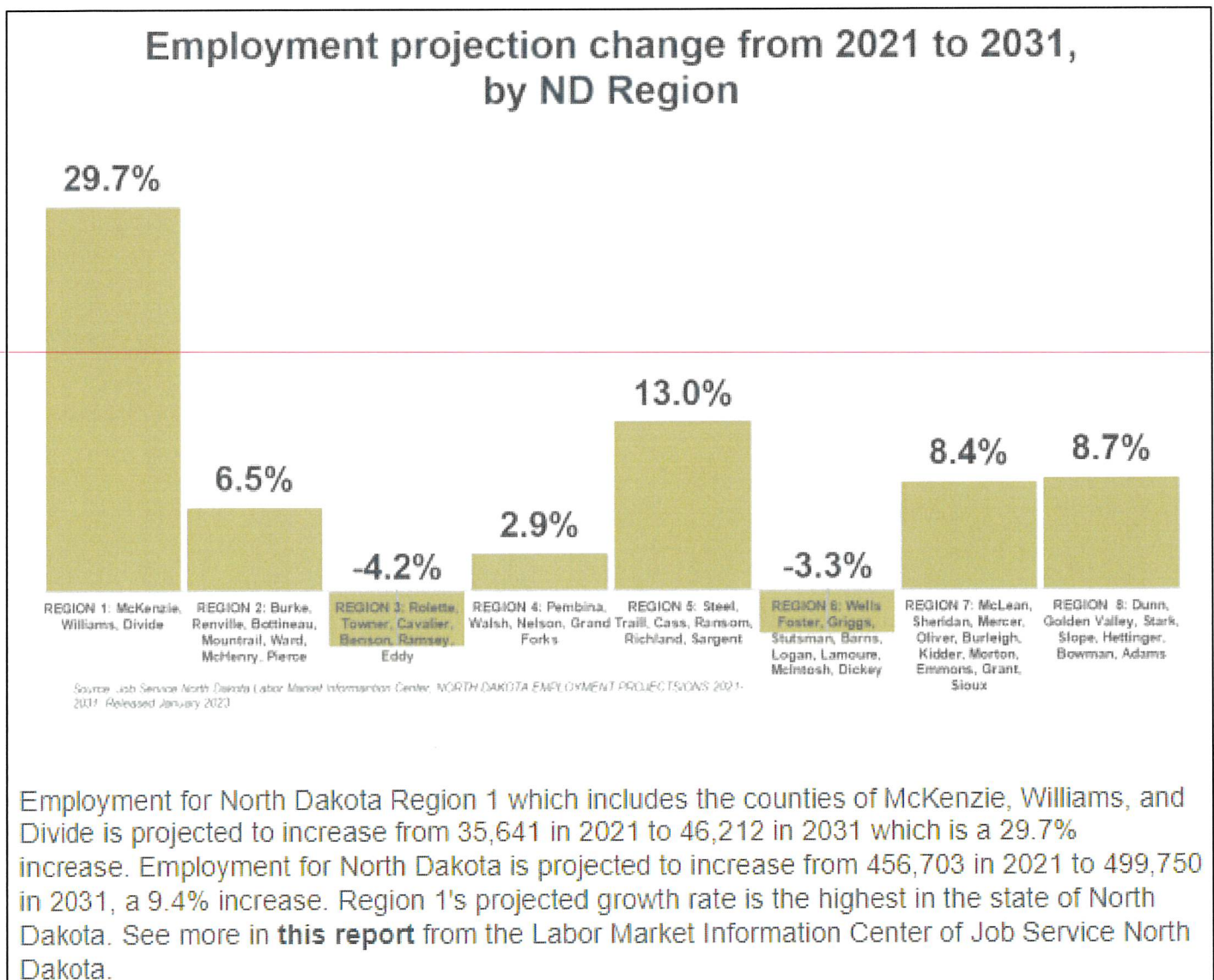
DISTRIBUTION



We have approached workforce development utilizing five initiatives in Watford City:

1. **Workforce Attraction** – the initiatives we deploy in partnership with McKenzie County Tourism, the Watford City Economic Development Corporation, and through business BR&E (Business Retention & Expansion) interviews and meetings.
2. **Workforce Retention** - the initiatives we deploy in partnership with the Watford City Park & Recreation District, McKenzie County JDA, McKenzie County School District #1, and through business BR&E (Business Retention & Expansion) interviews and meetings.
3. **Workforce Development** – the initiatives we deploy in partnership with McKenzie County School District #1 and the Bakken Area Skills Center, and through business BR&E (Business Retention & Expansion) interviews and meetings.
4. **Skills Development** – the initiatives we deploy in partnership with McKenzie County School District #1 and the Bakken Area Skills Center, and through business BR&E (Business Retention & Expansion) interviews and meetings.
5. **Entrepreneurship Development & Expansion** – the initiatives we deploy in partnership with SBDC, Tri-County Development Council, Lewis & Clark Development Group, McKenzie County School District #1 and the Bakken Area Skills Center, and through business BR&E (Business Retention & Expansion) interviews and meetings.


In **MANY** of our workforce development initiatives we utilize in Watford City to maintain and retain the existing workforce that we need today and grow the workforce Region 1 needs by 2031 according to Job Service ND:



WE UTILIZE the workforce development programs the North Dakota Department of Commerce offers. We leverage state funds and match them with local public and local private dollars in the sole mission to support and grow North Dakota's workforce.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written **SUPPORT for SB 2018 and to encourage program funding to the Department of Commerce that help local communities drive workforce development initiatives forward for the betterment of the state of North Dakota.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vawnita Best', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Vawnita Best, Community & Business Development Director, City of Watford City

vbest@nd.gov | (701) 580-1862