



International Union of Painters & Allied Trades District Council 82

AFL-CIO

Affiliated Locals, 61 - 106 - 386 - 681 - 880 - 1324 - 1922 - 1962 - 2002

Testimony-IN SUPPORT OF SB 2239

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North Dakota House of Representatives Industry, Business and Labor Committee

MARCh 26, 2025

Chairman Warrey and members of the Committee. On behalf of the Finishing Trades Institute Upper Midwest and the International Union of Painters and Finishing Trades (IUPAT), I am here today to offer our support for the creation of a North Dakota State Office of Apprenticeship through Senat Bill 2239.

The International Union of Painters & Allied Trades District Council 82 provides a voice for nearly 3,500 workers in the finishing trades across Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and western Wisconsin. Our members are trained in a variety of industry needs, including industrial and commercial painting, drywall finishing, glazing, glass work, sign installation, convention workers, and embroidery.

Our support for the creation of a North Dakota Office of Apprenticeship is not a union or non-union matter, it is about expanding the opportunities hard-working North Dakotans looking to develop their skills, advance their careers, and strengthen the North Dakota economy. As we see a continuing workforce issue throughout the building trades, training and development of new workers is imperative. By expanding opportunities to participate in the building trades, more North Dakotans will have a path towards long-term stable gainful employment in an industry whose success can help lower the cost of living and make North Dakota more affordable for us all.

As an industry, the building trades have experienced the failures of the Federal Department of Labors' Office of Apprenticeship. We have seen significant delays in communication, insurmountable red tape and bureaucracy, and a federal attitude of apathy towards the Midwest region. This is sharply contrasted with North Dakota government's proven track record of effective action.

By creating a North Dakota State Office of Apprenticeship, you all have the opportunity to join states such as Montana, Idaho, and Kansas who have taken the bold step of resisting federal apathy and empowering businesses and their employees to help shape and strengthen the future of our economy.

Like many other organizations and businesses in North Dakota, we are struggling to find more workers. The North Dakota State Office of Apprenticeship will help both labor and management equally and show that the state of North Dakota is serious about attracting new workers in this highly competitive workforce market.

Our members are looking for a commitment to the future of the building trades, and the creation of a North Dakota State Office of Apprenticeship will provide that commitment.

Chairman Warrey and members of the Committee, we believe the creation of a North Dakota State Office of Apprenticeship through SB 2239 will strongly signal your support in finding solutions to the critical workforce shortages we are facing.

Please give a "DO PASS" recommendation to SB 2239.