

April 1, 2025

Members of the 69th North Dakota Legislative Assembly

Dear Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Dr. Joshua M. Riedy, and I am the Founder and CEO of Thread, a technology enterprise headquartered in North Dakota specializing in innovations related to electrical utility systems, energy solutions, and defense applications. At inception, Thread secured critical Series A venture capital investment and established strategic collaborations with prominent institutions such as the University of North Dakota Aerospace Foundation. My previous roles included serving as Chief Information Officer for the University of North Dakota and Deputy Chief Information Officer for the North Dakota University System, positions that provided significant insight into the necessity and impact of strategic technological investments.

I express my unequivocal support for House Bill 1448, legislation proposing the establishment of an advanced technology review committee accompanied by a one-time appropriation of \$5 million dedicated to fostering technological innovation in North Dakota.

The bill astutely emphasizes technologies including artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning, and quantum computing—fields that possess substantial potential to deliver transformative economic and workforce outcomes across several key sectors within the state, specifically agriculture, manufacturing, energy, defense, and higher education.

Recent technological breakthroughs, exemplified by advancements such as ChatGPT and Deepseek, underscore the accelerating evolution and increasing accessibility of AI technologies. Given North Dakota's established leadership and expertise in precision agriculture, advanced manufacturing, and energy production, the state is exceptionally positioned to leverage these emerging technological capabilities effectively.

This proposed fund would serve as a catalyst for technological innovation, empowering a diverse range of stakeholders—from established industry leaders to entrepreneurial ventures—in the pursuit of practical applications capable of driving sustained economic growth and generating new employment opportunities statewide.

I respectfully encourage the committee to endorse HB 1448 with a favorable recommendation.

Sincerely,

Dr. Joshua M. Riedy