



Office of the President

To: Senate Industry & Business Committee

From: Dr. Bernell Hirning, President-WSC

Date: March 17, 2025

Subject: Testimony on HB1524

Greetings! I am writing today in support of HB1524, which provides funding for Regional Workforce Planning Councils.

From my position as the President of Williston State College (WSC), I represent the College on a number of different economic development groups/committees/councils. For this testimony, I'm specifically referring to the Tri-County Regional Development Council, representing the counties of Williams, Divide and McKenzie. This Council helps to keep the economic engine of business development going strong in western ND by providing support and funds for start-up businesses, as well as expansion of current businesses, and upkeep within regional communities.

Please consider funding HB1524 to assist northwest ND communities in having a solid level of support as needed for future growth and sustainability of existing infrastructure. Thank you for your support.

Bernell Hirning, PhD
President-Williston State College