

Home Builders Association of Fargo-Moorhead

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Appropriations Committee – Human Resources Division North Dakota Senate

Chairman Dever and Members of the Committee,

The Home Builders Association of Fargo-Moorhead represents approximately 730 builders and related businesses, many of them based in Cass County. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter urging you to support HB1019. This bill would provide growth opportunities and further economic support for career and technical education programming in North Dakota.

Strengthening CTE is a vital component to remedy our workforce issues. Given that many roles in the homebuilding industry do not require a 4-year degree, we are supportive of maintaining and growing programs that develop skills for construction. Our builders are unable to provide quality homes at the rate that our region needs without workers that are qualified to build them. As a result, we can already see that construction costs and purchase prices have increased, leading some buyers to be pushed out of the market. This means a loss in economic activity and growth in our communities.

Career academies provide the space to meet the needs for career and technical education in our state. The funding in HB1019 allows the opportunity to continue pushing these centers forward. By providing an opportunity for growth of CTE programs throughout North Dakota, this bill shows the state's commitment to resolving workforce issues and providing additional forms of education for careers that our state desperately needs.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Bryce Johnson

Chief Executive Officer

Bryce M. Johnson

David Reid, Radiant Homes

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President

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