



# Home Builders Association of Fargo-Moorhead

1802 32nd Avenue South · Fargo, ND 58103 · (701) 232-5846 · [hbafm.com](http://hbafm.com) · [info@hbafm.com](mailto:info@hbafm.com)

## **2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**PRESIDENT**  
David Reid

**PRESIDENT ELECT**  
Mike Lemke

**TREASURER**  
Bill Rothman

**ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT**  
Ian Beaton

**SECRETARY**  
Joyce Balstad

**IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT**  
Kim Hochhalter

**DIRECTORS**  
Nate Anderson  
Elana Charlton  
Brock Goossens  
Monica Hart  
Bob Miller  
Eric Miller  
Adam Olson  
Shannon Roers Jones  
Steve Stachowski

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**  
Bryce Johnson

**2023 NDAB**  
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**  
**BUILD-PAC TRUSTEE**  
Don Dabbert, Jr.

**1ST VICE PRESIDENT**  
Tom Spaeth

## **2023 NAHB DELEGATES**

**SENIOR LIFE DELEGATES**  
Don Dabbert, Jr.  
John Gunkelman

**LIFE DELEGATES**  
Jason Eid  
Tyrone Leslie  
Dan Lindquist

**NATIONAL DELEGATES**  
Kim Hochhalter  
Mike Lemke  
David Reid  
Tom Spaeth

May 24, 2023

Legislative Management Committee  
North Dakota Legislature

Dear Legislative Management Committee Members,

On behalf of the Home Builders Association of Fargo-Moorhead and our 730 members, we urge you to study the creation of a state-run apprenticeship program and flexibility surrounding minors ages 16 and older as outlined in SB2170.

With the workforce issues that our industry faces, it is pertinent to introduce youth to the construction industry at an age when they are eager to explore and learn. Gaining hands-on experience while receiving fair pay for work is a win-win for youth and employers in our state.

The programs that are in place, while helpful, are not accessible for many of our members that operate daily with a small team. In many cases, for residential construction there are only two to three team members. While many of them are willing and want to have a young person on the jobsite, they do not have the time or administrative resources for the paperwork required. They also do not have the ability, at the amount currently required, to carry workers' compensation. We think a potential solution to this issue could be establishing a blanket state policy that would cover students participating in an apprenticeship program.

At ages 16 and 17, young people are thinking about their future career path. While they are permitted to operate farm equipment, they can't operate a chop saw. We need skilled workers in the construction industry to keep our economy strong and communities growing. Another way to include the benefits of a state office of apprenticeship could be adding it under the direction of the current Career and Technical Education program.

We encourage you to study the areas outlined in SB2170 in the 2023-2024 interim for the benefit of our state and our workforce.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Bryce Johnson  
Chief Executive Officer

David Reid, Radiant Homes  
President

Affiliated With



*HBA of F-M's vision is to nurture a thriving, innovative and diverse housing industry in our community.*

