

W. Brian Poykko, P.E.
3712 Belmont Road
Grand Forks, ND 58201
701 739-3128

March 6, 2023

Senator Jordan Kannianen, Chairman
Senate Finance and Taxation

IN SUPPORT OF ND HB 1383
Relating to the provision of an income tax credit for qualified compensation paid to an
apprentice.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is W. Brian Poykko from Grand Forks. I am in generally in favor of this bill.

I am presently president and electrical engineer for Poykko Engineering, an electrical engineering consulting firm. I have worked as an electrical engineering design consultant in ND since 1981 and was first registered as a professional engineer in ND in 1982.

I am also a member of the NDSEB Education Committee.

Most of my life's work experience has been in the electrical design and construction administration of commercial, industrial, educational, and municipal construction projects. During the construction phase of projects, I have worked closely with many different contractors and their apprentices. It is my sincere belief that good apprenticeship programs are essential for a highly qualified work force. With the education that apprentices receive here, I believe it also helps to keep them and their careers in North Dakota.

Anything that incentives more apprenticeships and improves apprenticeship programs will greatly benefit the state.

That said, the requirement on Page 1, Lines 15 through 20, states that the taxpayer (contractor) must obtain a certification from the United States Department of Labor. In my opinion, this is an onerous task that the ND state agencies, such as the ND State Electrical Board, should instead administrate and provide the necessary certificates, as they already have a process in place to evaluate and approve acceptable organizations and companies that offer apprenticeship training.

I ask that you pass HB 1383 as it may be amended on Page 1, Lines 15 through 20 to include state agencies, such as the State Electrical Board, with the consideration to delete references to the United States Department of Labor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Brian Poykko". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "W. Brian" and last name "Poykko" clearly distinguishable.

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