

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, my name is Amanda Remyse with the Greater North Dakota Chamber. GNDC is North Dakota's largest statewide business advocacy organization, with membership represented by small and large businesses, local chambers, and trade and industry associations across the state. We stand in **support** of House Bill 1383.

Recently, GNDC partnered with the NDSU Challey Institute for Global Innovation and Growth to complete a survey about the business climate in North Dakota. The survey found that 62% of respondents felt the number one factor holding businesses back is difficulty attracting and retaining qualified workers. The results of the survey were reflected in the discussions held by our members in our policy position development process.

Our members feel it is important to maximize the flexibility and responsiveness of K-12, two and four-year educational institutions, and provide expanded educational opportunities to meet local training needs and demands.

We also support partnerships and resources that implement work-based learning opportunities to cultivate workforce attraction and retention.

The ability to have access to a skilled workforce is a critical issue impacting the business community. We feel that the proposed tax credit would be a good step towards addressing the workforce challenge, benefiting both students and North Dakota businesses.

We respectfully request a Do Pass recommendation on HB 1383.