



Wright Technical Center

1405 3rd Ave. NE Buffalo, MN 55313

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April 29, 2024

Re: Support for inclusion of Wright Technical Center funding (HF 2069, SF 1856) in the bonding bill

Chair Pappas and Chair Lee:

Thank you for your work on behalf of the State. As you work to finalize the list of local projects that will be included in this year's omnibus capital investment bill, this letter is submitted to urge you to include funding for critical facilities needs at the Wright Technical Center (WTC) in Buffalo, MN.

WTC, now in its 51st year, is the last true Vocational Cooperative in the state that serves as an advanced career and technical high school (Wright Tech) and we also provide an Alternative Learning Center (Wright Academy). WTC has provided Advanced Career and Technical training to more than 30,000 high school Juniors and Seniors since 1972. Wright Technical Center provides educational opportunities for 8 surrounding districts.

Unfortunately, WTC's facilities need critical maintenance to support our mission and fulfill our duties to our students. These include a remodeling of our facilities for safety, to support programming, and complete critical deferred maintenance on electric and HVAC systems.

As a cooperative school district, WTC does not have its own levy authority. WTC is reliant on contributions from its member districts, which are not able to provide additional funding to meet WTC's facility needs because they struggle financially as well. Due to our financial position, WTC has had to take drastic measures in recent years, such as placing hard freezes on program supplies budgets, and reducing custodial staff. Without your support, we will not be able to make these critical investments.

WTC's bonding request, in SF 1856/HF 2069, has received more than forty-five letters of support from organizations including labor unions, member school districts, chambers of commerce, and individual businesses. Those letters are available to you by request.

Wright Tech was thrilled to host each of your committees for a bonding tour prior to session, and we would welcome you back any time to meet with our students.

With any questions about the project, please feel free to contact WTC Executive Director Brian Koslofsky at (763) 684-2200 or brian.koslofsky@wrighttech.org, or Shane Zahrt or Flaherty & Hood, PA at (651) 295-1123 or SAZahrt@flaherty-hood.com.

Thank you for your consideration,

Brian Koslofsky
Executive Director
Wright Technical Center