



**THE CHAMBER**  
FARGO MOORHEAD WEST FARGO

The Honorable Paul Marquart  
597 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Carla Nelson  
95 University Ave W.  
Minnesota Senate Building  
Room 3235  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Marquart, Chair Nelson, and Members of the Taxes Conference Committee,

On behalf of our over 1,900 members throughout the Fargo Moorhead metro area, I am writing today to offer our support for a particular provision in the House Omnibus Tax Bill. Section 20 of the House bill provides for county grants for community career workforce academies and appropriates a one-time payment of \$10 million to the Department of Employment and Economic Development for a grant to Clay County for the Moorhead Career Workforce Academy for capital facility needs and programming.

Our community desperately needs a community-based approach that brings together public and private dollars, to address regional workforce demands. The two major demands are a need for a strong pipeline of workers in the in-demand fields, and programs to upskill the current workforce with an emphasis on minority populations, new MN citizens, and underskilled workforce. The Moorhead Career Workforce Academy is a natural vehicle to do so, but additional investment is needed to enhance this innovative workforce facility and catalyze its programming potential.

Collaborative learning, student engagement and authentic experiences are at the core of a multi-year effort by Moorhead High School to re-imagine education for every student in the district's diverse and growing student body. Innovative changes to curriculum and the adoption of a new schedule model will enable students to have improved access to career pathways with the goal of making every student ready for college, career, or both when they graduate. By retrofitting the current space, the next generation of 9-12 grade students and adult learners will have incredible opportunities to explore and discover their talents while working toward industry certifications and gaining real world skills.

It is our hope that the members of the Taxes Conference Committee will consider this provision. Thank you for your consideration of this issue and for your service to our state.

Sincerely,

Shannon Full  
President & CEO – Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce

CC:  
Senator Kent Eken (DFL-Audobon)  
Representative Heather Keeler (DFL-Moorhead)