March 21, 2022

Sen. Jason Rarick

MN Senate Building, Room 3411

95 University Ave W

Saint Paul, MN 55155

Rep. Jamie Long

517 State Office Building

Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator Rarick and Representative Long,

On behalf of the 28,000 members of the North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters, I write to support your bill, HF 4183/SF3973, to appropriate money to Unidos MN and the New Justice Project for their work helping prepare workers of color for great careers in the union construction industry.

As you know, union apprenticeship programs are an excellent pathway into the middle class for many workers, but more work needs to be done to make young people aware of these opportunities, especially in communities of color. For workers who don’t have construction in their background or have never had experience in our industry, apprenticeship-readiness programs like these can be very effective bridges to help workers be prepared for their first construction job and entry into our formal apprenticeship programs.

Now is the time to make apprenticeship programs and career pathways a priority for the state. With the passage of federal infrastructure investments coupled with the boom we are seeing in other sectors of multifamily housing and hospitals and schools, the construction industry is very strong and a great time for prosperous jobs to become careers.

We plan to partner directly with these programs to help them succeed and look forward to many successful participants from them becoming lifelong members of our union.

Thank you very much for introducing this bill; we strongly support it.

Sincerely,

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Adam Duininck

Director of Government Affairs