

The Honorable Gene Pelowski  
Chairman Minnesota House Industrial Education and Economic Development Finance and Policy  
Committee  
491 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chairman Pelowski, Vice-Chair Sandell, and members of the House Industrial Education and  
Economic Development Finance and Policy Committee,

We, the undersigned businesses in Clay County, Minnesota, respectfully urge you to support House  
File 4198 authored by Representative Paul Marquart, a workforce aid bill that brings our high  
schools, two and four-year colleges, businesses, non-profits, and elected local officials together in  
creating and implementing one unified strategy and plan to address our critical workforce needs. This  
much-needed funding will prepare learners for high-skill jobs of the future and address the state's  
workforce shortage.

As business leaders, we can attest to workforce challenges being one of the top hindrances to our  
region's growth and prosperity. According to a 2021 Minnesota Department of Employment and  
Economic Development Study, job openings during the second quarter of last year reached a record  
high of 205,714 job vacancies (8% vacancy rate), 41.9% of vacancies were located in Greater  
Minnesota. Through the collaboration of public and private dollars, Community Career Workforce  
Academies are long-term and sustainable workforce solutions that foster robust learning  
environments, promote career exploration, produce choice-ready graduates, and establish a pipeline  
of qualified workers for our local economies. Counties that employ this creative solution will expose  
their students to a rigorous 21st-century education that provides an opportunity to earn a  
postsecondary credential or degree, fast-tracking them into high-wage, high-demand jobs or  
continued education.

The state of Minnesota must continue to invest in creative workforce solutions in order to overcome  
these widespread workforce challenges. The Moorhead Career Workforce Academy in Clay County  
is an extraordinary example of an innovative Community Career Workforce Academy that exists in  
the state of Minnesota. With the financial support outlined in this bill, new and existing academies  
can expand access to new and current Minnesota residents to ensure a strong pipeline of future talent  
and immediate development of the current underskilled workforce.

Thank you for your service to the great state of Minnesota, and your attention to this crucial  
workforce issue. Accordingly, we respectfully urge you to vote YES on HF 4198.

Sincerely,

**Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce**  
*Shannon Full, President and CEO*

**Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc.**  
*Eric Dodds, Operations Manager*

**American Crystal Sugar**  
*Tom Astrup, President and CEO*

**ASN Constructors**  
*Greg Yavicoli, Construction Manager*

**Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota**  
*Pam Gulleon, VP of Public Affairs & Government Relations*

**Bremer Bank**  
*Judd Graham, Senior Region President*

**ByteSpeed**  
*Anna Hanson, Sale Director*

**City of Moorhead**  
*Dan Mahli, City Manager*

**Clay County Commissioner**  
*Jenna Kahly, District 1*

**Clay County Commissioner**  
*Frank Gross, District 2*

**Clay County Commissioner**  
*Jenny Mongeau, District 3*

**Clay County Commissioner**  
*Kevin Campbell, District 4*

**D-S Beverages**  
*Doug Restemayer, President*

**Downtown Moorhead Inc.**  
*Derrick LaPoint, President and CEO*

**Eventide Senior Living Communities**  
*Jon Riewer, President and CEO*

**First International Bank and Trust**  
*S. Peter Stenehjem, President*

**Gooseberry Park Players**  
*Sara Solhjem, Board President*

**Home Builders Association of Fargo Moorhead**  
*Bryce Johnson, CEO*

**Hornbacher's**  
*Matt Leiseth, President*

**Matt's Automotive**  
*Matt Lachowitz, Owner and Founder*

**Microsoft**  
*Taya Spelhaug, TechSpark Manager*

**Minnesota State Community and Technical College**  
*Dr. Carrie Brimhall, President*

**Moore Holding Company**  
*Shane N. Waslaski, CEO*

**Moorhead Business Association**  
*Sheri Larson, Executive Director*

**Clay County Commissioner**  
*David Ebinger, District 5*

**Moorhead Legacy Education Foundation**  
*Janelle Leiseth, Board Member*

**Concordia College**  
*William Craft, President*

**Red River Valley Alliance**  
*Esther Madrigal Diez, CEO*

**Construction Engineers**  
*James Hand, Business Development*

**Sanford Health**  
*Molly Carmody, Senior Legislative Affairs Specialist*

**SCHEELS**  
*Steve D. Scheels, President*