



January 15, 2016

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter to extend my enthusiastic support for Amendment R. I stand with a large group of supporters who have studied the issue and represent a broad, cross-section of individuals in government, education and business. In fact, House Joint Resolution 1003 initiated this amendment and it was passed unanimously through both legislative houses (a rare event in politics). The Regents, Governor's office, leaders in business and industry, Technical Institutes and school districts all voted in favor of it. Now, we must join together to not only lend our voice, but our YES vote for Amendment R, which will appear on the November ballot.

This Amendment is a giant leap forward to assist in solving the shortage of skilled workers in South Dakota. It will provide a constitutional mandate, for the first time, to elevate the mission of the Technical Institutes in educating and training skilled workers. This will allow for a stronger voice in prioritizing State and Federal assets in support of the Technical Institute mission, and allow them to increase their output of entry level skilled workers.

As the Chief Executive Officer of First PREMIER Bank and a Board President of the Build Dakota Scholarship Fund, I have had the privilege of working closely with South Dakota's Technical Institutes. Through the Build Dakota Scholarship Fund we have made great strides to address the workforce shortage for critical need trade jobs. This has changed the trajectory of hundreds of lives by offering full-ride scholarships, and has brought new attention to the high-quality education offered at South Dakota Technical Institutes. I have witnessed how these institutes have helped individuals prepare, and in many cases, retool to become more productive for the changing and growing needs of our workplace in South Dakota.

I encourage you to explore Amendment R and to understand the positive impact it will have on our workforce and local economies. A vote YES is a vote to keep South Dakota's workforce moving in the right direction. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dana J. Dykhouse', is written over a horizontal line.

Dana J. Dykhouse
Chief Executive Officer
First PREMIER Bank