

August 26, 2019

Minnesota State Legislature
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155



Adele Gagliardi, Administrator
Office of Policy Development and Research
U.S. Department of Labor,
200 Constitution Avenue NW
Room N-5641,
Washington, DC 20210

RE: U.S. DOL Industry Recognized Apprenticeship Programs Implementation
Proposed Rule - RIN 1205-AB85

Administrator Gagliardi:

As Legislators from all across the State of Minnesota, we write to affirm the value of Registered Apprenticeship programs in training the safest, most highly skilled construction workforce for the State of Minnesota, and to express our support for the permanent exemption for the construction industry in the proposed rule: Apprenticeship Programs, Labor Standards for Registration, Amendment of Regulations (1205-AB85).

There are currently over 10,000 Registered Apprentices in Minnesota in more than 50 privately funded construction Registered Apprenticeship Programs training to be our State's future plumbers, electricians, iron workers, crane operators, laborers, carpenters and other highly skilled trades workers. Registered Apprenticeships have been the pathway for more women and minorities to enter the construction trades and Minnesota contractors, business owners, and communities rely on Registered Apprenticeship programs to train our future construction workers to grow our State's economy and ensure our safety.

Unfortunately, if expanded to include the construction industry, the proposed rules would undermine the integrity and drive down the training and labor standards in construction Registered Apprenticeship programs, setting off a race to the bottom in Minnesota's construction industry. Minnesota is not willing to jeopardize the quality of its construction and the safety and security of its construction workforce.

The public is also at risk. Having the safest roads, bridges, schools and utilities requires the best trained workers with the highest level of skill. Anything less, especially an untested training program with lowered standards, will put public safety at risk.

Therefore, we respectfully request that the U.S. Department of Labor ensure that the construction industry be permanently excluded from these proposed rules and that Registered Apprenticeship be preserved as the system for training our State's current and future construction workforce.

Sincerely,



Senator Paul T. Anderson
Minnesota Senate
11, R



Senator Richard Cohen
Minnesota Senate
64, DFL



Senator Roger Chamberlain
Minnesota Senate
38, R



Senator Scott Dibble
Minnesota Senate
61, DFL



Senator Scott Jensen
Minnesota Senate
47, R



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Senator Mary Kiffmeyer
Minnesota Senate
30, R



Senator Jeff Hayden
Minnesota Senate
62, DFL



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Minnesota Senate
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Minnesota Senate
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Minnesota Senate
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57A, DFL



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46, DFL



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19A, DFL



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37, DFL



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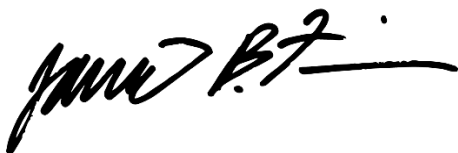


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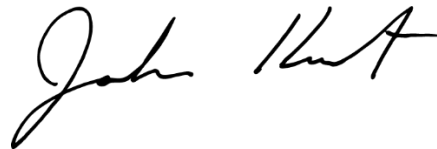


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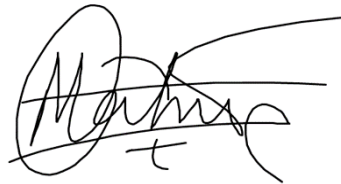
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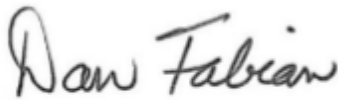
Rep. Ryan Winkler
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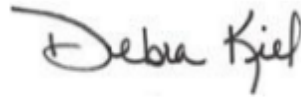
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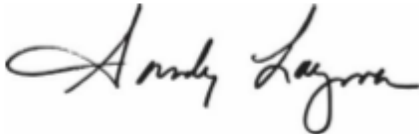
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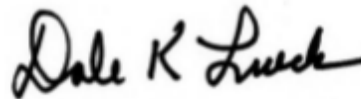
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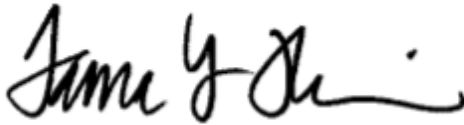
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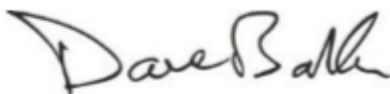
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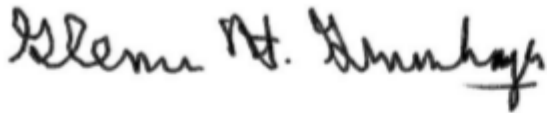
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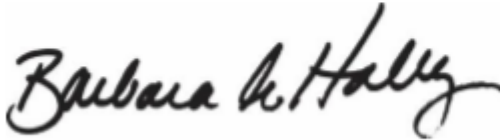
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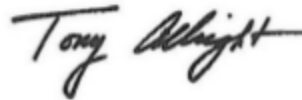
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